

*Pacific
Journal of
Mathematics*

**CLASSIFICATION OF POSITIVE SMOOTH SOLUTIONS TO
THIRD-ORDER PDES INVOLVING FRACTIONAL LAPLACIANS**

WEI DAI AND GUOLIN QIN

CLASSIFICATION OF POSITIVE SMOOTH SOLUTIONS TO THIRD-ORDER PDES INVOLVING FRACTIONAL LAPLACIANS

WEI DAI AND GUOLIN QIN

In this paper, we are concerned with the third-order equations

$$\begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^d), & u(x) > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = \left(\frac{1}{|x|^6} * |u|^2\right)u, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^d), & u(x) > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d, d \geq 7, \end{cases}$$

with $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ -critical nonlinearity. By showing the equivalence between the PDEs and the corresponding integral equations and using results from Chen et al. (2006) and Dai et al. (2018), we prove that positive classical solutions u to the above equations are radially symmetric about some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and derive the explicit forms for u .

1. Introduction

In this paper, we mainly consider the positive classical solutions to the following third-order conformal invariant equation with $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ -critical nonlinearity:

$$(1-1) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^d), & u(x) > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases}$$

where $d \geq 4$ and the nonlocal fractional Laplacian $(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ can be defined by Fourier transform, that is,

$$(1-2) \quad \widehat{(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} f}(\xi) := (2\pi|\xi|)\hat{f}(\xi),$$

with $\hat{f}(\xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x)e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$. If f is in the Schwartz space \mathcal{S} of rapidly decreasing C^∞ functions in \mathbb{R}^d , then $(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} f$ can also be defined equivalently by

Dai was supported by the NNSF of China (No. 11501021).

MSC2010: primary 35R11; secondary 35B06, 35J91.

Keywords: fractional Laplacians, odd order, positive smooth solutions, radial symmetry, uniqueness, equivalence.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1-3) \quad (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} f(x) &= C_{\alpha,d} \text{P.V.} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{|x - y|^{d+\alpha}} dy \\
 &:= C_{\alpha,d} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{|y-x| \geq \epsilon} \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{|x - y|^{d+\alpha}} dy
 \end{aligned}$$

with $\alpha = 1$, where the constant $C_{\alpha,d} = \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 - \cos(2\pi \zeta_1)) / |\zeta|^{d+\alpha} d\zeta \right)^{-1}$. For general $0 < \alpha < 2$, the definition (1-3) for $(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} f$ can be extended and it is well defined for $f \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^d)$ (see [Chen et al. 2015; 2017; Dai et al. 2017; Zhuo et al. 2014]) with

$$\mathcal{L}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^d) := \left\{ f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|f(x)|}{1 + |x|^{d+\alpha}} dx < \infty \right\}.$$

Throughout this paper, we define

$$(-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u := (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} (-\Delta u)$$

by definition (1-3) (with $f = -\Delta u$) provided that $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ (i.e., (c) and (d) in Theorems 1.1 and 1.3), otherwise we will define $(-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u$ by Fourier transform (i.e., (a) and (b) in Theorems 1.1 and 1.3). See the extension method of defining $(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}$ in [Caffarelli and Silvestre 2007]. The equation (1-1) is $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ -critical in the sense that both it and the $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ norm are invariant under the same scaling

$$u_\rho(x) = \rho^{(d-3)/2} u(\rho x),$$

where the homogeneous Sobolev norm is defined as

$$\|u\|_{\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d)} := \|(-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{4}} u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^3 |\hat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

The quantitative and qualitative properties of solutions to fractional order or higher order conformally invariant equations of the form

$$(1-4) \quad (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u = u^{\frac{d+\alpha}{d-\alpha}}$$

have been extensively studied. In the special case $\alpha = 2$, (1-4) becomes the well-known Yamabe problem (for related results, please see Gidas, Ni and Nirenberg [Gidas et al. 1979] and Caffarelli, Gidas and Spruck [Caffarelli et al. 1989]); for $d = 2$, Chen and Li [2010] classified all the positive smooth solutions with finite total curvature of the equation

$$(1-5) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta u = e^{2u}, & x \in \mathbb{R}^2, \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{2u} dx < \infty. \end{cases}$$

In general, when $\alpha = d$, under some assumptions, Chang and Yang [1997] classified the smooth solutions to

$$(1-6) \quad (-\Delta)^{\frac{d}{2}} u = (d - 1)! e^{du}.$$

For $\alpha = 4$, Lin [1998] proved the classification results for all the positive smooth solutions of (1-4) ($d \geq 5$) and all the smooth solutions of

$$(1-7) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta^2 u = 6e^{4u}, & x \in \mathbb{R}^4, \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} e^{4u} dx < \infty, & u(x) = o(|x|^2) \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty. \end{cases}$$

Xu [2006] obtained similar results to Chang and Yang [1997] and Lin [1998] for (1-7) under the assumption $\Delta u(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. For $\alpha \in (0, d]$ an even integer, Wei and Xu [1999] classified the positive smooth solutions of (1-4), they also established the classification results for the smooth solutions of (1-6) with finite total curvature under the assumption $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. Zhu [2004] classified all the smooth solutions with finite total curvature of the problem

$$(1-8) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = 2e^{3u}, & x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} e^{3u} dx < \infty, & u(x) = o(|x|^2) \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty. \end{cases}$$

In [Chen et al. 2006], by developing the method of moving planes in integral forms, Chen, Li and Ou classified all the positive $L_{loc}^{2d/(d-\alpha)}$ solutions to the equivalent integral equation of PDE (1-4). As a consequence, they obtained the classification results for positive weak solutions to PDE (1-4), moreover, they also derived classification results for positive smooth solutions to (1-4) provided $\alpha \in (0, d)$ is an even integer. For more literature on the quantitative and qualitative properties of solutions to fractional order or higher order conformally invariant PDE and IE problems, please refer to [Chen and Li 2010; Chen et al. 2017; Dai et al. 2017; Xu 2005]. One should observe that, when $\alpha \in (0, d)$ is an odd integer, the classification for positive smooth solutions to (1-4) is still open.

By proving the equivalence between PDE (1-1) and the integral equation

$$(1-9) \quad u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy$$

and using the results for IE (1-9) from [Chen et al. 2006], we will study the classification of positive smooth solutions to the third-order equation (1-1) under assumptions which are similar to (or even weaker than) those in [Chen et al. 2017; Lin 1998; Xu 2006; Zhu 2004].

Our classification result for (1-1) is the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *Assume $d \geq 4$ and u is a positive solution of (1-1). If u satisfies one of the four assumptions*

- (a) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx < \infty$ and $\Delta u(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,
- (b) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx < \infty$ and there exists some $\tau < 3$ such that $u(x) = O(|x|^\tau)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,

(c) $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\Delta u \leq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d ,

(d) $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{(d+3)/(d-3)}}{|x|^{d-3}} dx < \infty$ and $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,

then u is radially symmetric and monotone decreasing about some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$; in particular, the positive solution u must assume the form

$$u(x) = \left(\frac{1}{R_{3,d} I\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{6}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda^2 |x - x_0|^2} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \quad \text{for some } \lambda > 0,$$

where $R_{m,d} := \Gamma\left(\frac{d-m}{2}\right) / (\pi^{\frac{d}{2}} 2^m \Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2}\right))$ with $0 < m < d$ and

$$I(s) := \frac{\pi^{\frac{d}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(d - 2s)\right)}{\Gamma(d - s)}$$

for $0 < s < \frac{d}{2}$.

Remark 1.2. In [Theorem 1.1](#), we should observe that the integrable condition

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}}{|x|^{d-3}} dx < \infty$$

in (d) is much weaker than the condition $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx < \infty$ in (a) and (b). In fact, one immediately has

$$\int_{|x| \geq 1} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(x)}{|x|^{d-3}} dx \leq \left(\int_{|x| \geq 1} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx \right)^{\frac{d+3}{2d}} \left(\int_{|x| \geq 1} \frac{1}{|x|^{2d}} dx \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2d}} < \infty,$$

provided that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx < \infty$. The assumption $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}$ in (c) and (d) in [Theorem 1.1](#) can also be replaced by weaker assumptions $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\epsilon}$ or $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{3,\epsilon}$ for arbitrarily small $\epsilon > 0$.

We also consider the classification of positive classical solutions to the following third-order $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ -critical static Hartree equation with nonlocal nonlinearity:

$$(1-10) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = \left(\frac{1}{|x|^6} * |u|^2 \right) u, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^d), & u(x) > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d, d \geq 7. \end{cases}$$

The solution u to problem (1-10) is also a stationary solution to the $\dot{H}^{\frac{3}{2}}$ -critical focusing fractional order dynamic Schrödinger–Hartree equation

$$(1-11) \quad i\partial_t u + (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u = \left(\frac{1}{|x|^6} * |u|^2 \right) u, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where $d \geq 7$. The Hartree equation has many interesting applications in the quantum theory of large systems of nonrelativistic bosonic atoms and molecules (see, e.g.,

[Fröhlich and Lenzmann 2004]). PDEs of the type (1-10) also arise in the Hartree–Fock theory of the nonlinear Schrödinger equations (see [Lieb and Simon 1977]).

There is lots of literature on the quantitative and qualitative properties of solutions to fractional order or higher order Hartree equations of the form

$$(1-12) \quad (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u = \left(\frac{1}{|x|^{2\alpha}} * |u|^2 \right) u$$

and various related Choquard equations, please see [Cao and Dai 2017; Dai et al. 2018; Liu 2009; Ma and Zhao 2010]. Cao and Dai [2017] classified all the positive C^4 solutions to the \dot{H}^2 -critical biharmonic equation (1-12) with $\alpha = 4$; they also derived Liouville theorems in the subcritical cases. For general $0 < \alpha < \frac{d}{2}$, Dai et al. [2018] classified all the positive $L^{2d/(d-\alpha)}$ integrable solutions to the equivalent integral equation of PDE (1-12). As a consequence, they obtained the classification results for positive weak solutions to PDE (1-12).

By proving the equivalence between PDE (1-10) and the integral equation

$$(1-13) \quad u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{|y-z|^6} |u(z)|^2 dz \right) u(y) dy$$

and using the results for IE (1-13) from [Dai et al. 2018], we establish the following classification theorem for positive smooth solutions of PDE (1-10) under similar assumptions as in Theorem 1.1.

Theorem 1.3. *Assume u is a positive solution of (1-10) such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{2d}{d-3}} dx < \infty$. If u satisfies one of the four assumptions*

- (a) $\Delta u(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,
- (b) *there exists some $\tau < 3$ such that $u(x) = O(|x|^\tau)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,*
- (c) $\Delta u \in C_{loc}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\Delta u \leq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d ,
- (d) $\Delta u \in C_{loc}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,

then u is radially symmetric and monotone decreasing about some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$; in particular, the positive solution u must assume the following form:

$$u(x) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{R_{3,d} I(3) I\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda^2 |x - x_0|^2} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \quad \text{for some } \lambda > 0.$$

The rest of our paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we carry out our proof for Theorem 1.1. Section 3 is devoted to proving Theorem 1.3.

In the following, we will use C to denote a general positive constant that may depend on d and u , and whose value may differ from line to line.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Lemma 2.1 (Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev inequality, [Lieb 1983]). *Letting $d \geq 1$, $0 < s < d$ and $1 < p < q < \infty$ be such that $\frac{d}{q} = \frac{d}{p} - s$, we have*

$$\left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{d-s}} dy \right\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{d,s,p,q} \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)}$$

for all $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Define

$$(2-1) \quad v(x) := - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy, \quad w(x) := u(x) + v(x),$$

where the Riesz potential's constants $R_{m,d} = \Gamma((d-m)/2)/(\pi^{\frac{d}{2}} 2^m \Gamma(m/2))$ with $0 < m < d$. Since u is a solution to (1-1), we get immediately $(-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} w \equiv 0$ and hence $\Delta^2 w \equiv 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d .

Under the following four entirely different assumptions (a), (b), (c) and (d) on u , we will prove that the solution u to PDE (1-1) always satisfies the equivalent integral equation.

(a) Suppose $\Delta u \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. By the Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev inequality,

$$(2-2) \quad \|\Delta v\|_{L^{2d/(d+1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \right\|_{L^{2d/(d+1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \tilde{C}_d \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

Now assume $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is arbitrary. We can infer from $\Delta v \in L^{2d/(d+1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ that there exists a sequence of radii $r_k \rightarrow \infty$ such that

$$(2-3) \quad r_k \cdot \int_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} |\Delta v(x)|^{\frac{2d}{d+1}} d\sigma \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

Since Δw is harmonic in \mathbb{R}^d , the mean value property yields that

$$(2-4) \quad \Delta w(z) = \oint_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} \Delta w(x) d\sigma,$$

where $\oint_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} \Delta w(x) d\sigma$ is the integral average of Δw over the sphere $|x-z| = r_k$. Therefore, by the Jensen inequality and (2-4), we get

$$(2-5) \quad |\Delta w(z)|^{\frac{2d}{d+1}} \leq \left(\oint_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} (|\Delta u(x)| + |\Delta v(x)|) d\sigma \right)^{\frac{2d}{d+1}} \\ \leq C_d \left\{ \oint_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} |\Delta u(x)|^{\frac{2d}{d+1}} d\sigma + \oint_{\partial B_{r_k}(z)} |\Delta v(x)|^{\frac{2d}{d+1}} d\sigma \right\}.$$

Letting $k \rightarrow \infty$ in (2-5), we can deduce from (2-3) and the assumption $\Delta u \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ that

$$(2-6) \quad \Delta w(z) = 0.$$

Since $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is arbitrarily chosen, we actually have $\Delta w \equiv 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d .

Applying Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev inequality again, we deduce that

$$(2-7) \quad \|v\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_d \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d+3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}} \leq C_d \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}.$$

Since $w \in L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is harmonic in \mathbb{R}^d , the Gagliardo–Nirenberg interpolation inequality implies that

$$(2-8) \quad \|\nabla w\|_{L^{2d/(d-1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_d \|w\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Delta w\|_{L^{2d/(d+1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\frac{1}{2}} = 0,$$

thus we arrive at $w \equiv 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d . That is, u also satisfies the integral equation

$$(2-9) \quad u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy.$$

(b) Suppose there exists some $\tau < 3$ such that $u(x) = O(|x|^\tau)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. Without loss of generality, we may assume $\tau > 2$. By the Hölder inequality, we have for $|x|$ sufficiently large,

$$\begin{aligned} |v(x)| &\leq C_d \left[\int_{|x-y| \geq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_{|x-y| \leq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \right] \\ &\leq C_d + C_{d,\delta} \left(\sup_{\bar{B}_1(x)} u \right)^{1+\delta} \leq C|x|^{(1+\delta)\tau}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\delta > 0$ is fixed sufficiently small such that $\tau < (1 + \delta)\tau < 3$. It follows that $w(x) = O(|x|^{\tilde{\tau}})$ with $\tilde{\tau} := (1 + \delta)\tau < 3$.

Since Δw is harmonic in \mathbb{R}^d , from the mean value property, we get that, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $s > 0$,

$$(2-10) \quad \Delta w(x) = \frac{d}{\omega_{d-1}s^d} \int_{|y-x| \leq s} \Delta w(y) dy = \frac{d}{\omega_{d-1}s^d} \int_{|y-x| \leq s} \frac{\partial w}{\partial s}(y) d\sigma,$$

where ω_{d-1} is the area of the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^d . By integrating with respect to s from 0 to r in (2-10), we have

$$(2-11) \quad \frac{r^2}{2d} \Delta w(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_{d-1}r^{d-1}} \int_{|y-x|=r} w(y) d\sigma - w(x).$$

Therefore, we can deduce from $w(x) = O(|x|^{\bar{\tau}})$ and (2-11) that, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with $|x|$ sufficiently large and $r = |x|/2$,

$$(2-12) \quad |\Delta w(x)| \leq \frac{2d}{r^2} \left\{ \sup_{\frac{1}{2}|x| \leq |y| \leq \frac{3}{2}|x|} |w(y)| + |w(x)| \right\} \leq C|x|^{\bar{\tau}-2},$$

that is, $\Delta w(x) = O(|x|^{\bar{\tau}-2})$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. Thus, by gradient estimates for harmonic functions, we have

$$(2-13) \quad \Delta w(x) \equiv C \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

which implies that $w(x) - C/(2d)|x|^2$ is harmonic in \mathbb{R}^d . Since $w(x) - C/(2d)|x|^2 = O(|x|^{\bar{\tau}})$, by gradient estimates for harmonic functions, w must be a quadratic polynomial, that is,

$$(2-14) \quad w(x) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij}x_i x_j + \sum_i b_i x_i + c.$$

Since $w \in L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, all the coefficients a_{ij} , b_i and c in (2-14) must be zero, that is $w(x) \equiv 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d , thus u also satisfies the equivalent integral equation (2-9).

(c) Suppose $\Delta u \in C_{loc}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\Delta u \leq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d . We will prove the classical solution u to PDE (1-1) also satisfies the equivalent integral equation (2-9) using the ideas from [Chen et al. 2015; Zhuo et al. 2014]. To this end, we will need the following two lemmas established in [Chen et al. 2017; Silvestre 2007; Zhuo et al. 2014].

Lemma 2.2 (maximum principle, [Chen et al. 2017; Silvestre 2007]). *Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^d and $0 < \alpha < 2$. Assume that $u \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha \cap C_{loc}^{1,1}(\Omega)$ and is lower semicontinuous on $\bar{\Omega}$. If $(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u \geq 0$ in Ω and $u \geq 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \Omega$, then $u \geq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d . Moreover, if $u = 0$ at some point in Ω , then $u = 0$ almost everywhere in \mathbb{R}^d . These conclusions also hold for an unbounded domain Ω if we assume further that*

$$\liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u(x) \geq 0.$$

Lemma 2.3 (Liouville theorem, [Zhuo et al. 2014]). *Assume $d \geq 2$ and $0 < \alpha < 2$. Let u be a strong solution of*

$$\begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u(x) \geq 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases}$$

then $u \equiv C \geq 0$.

Remark 2.4. Lemma 2.2 has been established first by Silvestre [2007] without the assumption $u \in C_{loc}^{1,1}(\Omega)$. In [Chen et al. 2017], Chen, Li and Li provided a much more elementary and simpler proof for Lemma 2.2 under the assumption $u \in C_{loc}^{1,1}(\Omega)$.

First, assume u is a positive solution to (1-1) satisfying $\Delta u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\Delta u \leq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d ; we will show that $-\Delta u$ also satisfies the integral equation

$$(2-15) \quad -\Delta u = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy + C_1,$$

where $C_1 \geq 0$ is a constant.

For arbitrary $R > 0$, let

$$(2-16) \quad \tilde{v}_R(x) = \int_{B_R(0)} G_R^1(x, y) u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy,$$

where the Green's function for $(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ on $B_R(0)$ is given by

$$(2-17) \quad G_R^1(x, y) = \frac{C_d}{|x-y|^{d-1}} \int_0^{\frac{t_R}{s_R}} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{1}{2}}(1+b)^{\frac{d}{2}}} db, \quad \text{if } x, y \in B_R(0)$$

with $s_R = |x-y|^2/R^2$, $t_R = (1-|x|^2/R^2)(1-|y|^2/R^2)$, and $G_R^1(x, y) = 0$ if x or $y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0)$ (see [Kulczycki 1997]).

Then, we can derive

$$(2-18) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{1/2} \tilde{v}_R(x) = u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(x), & x \in B_R(0), \\ \tilde{v}_R(x) = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0). \end{cases}$$

Letting $\tilde{w}_R(x) = -\Delta u(x) - \tilde{v}_R(x)$, by (1-1) and (2-18), we have

$$(2-19) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{1/2} \tilde{w}_R(x) = 0, & x \in B_R(0), \\ \tilde{w}_R(x) \geq 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0). \end{cases}$$

By Lemma 2.2, we deduce that for any $R > 0$,

$$(2-20) \quad \tilde{w}_R(x) = -\Delta u(x) - \tilde{v}_R(x) \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Now, for each fixed $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, letting $R \rightarrow \infty$ in (2-20), we have

$$(2-21) \quad -\Delta u(x) \geq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy =: \tilde{v}(x) > 0.$$

Taking $x = 0$ in (2-21), we get

$$(2-22) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y)}{|y|^{d-1}} dy < \infty,$$

and it follows easily that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u(x)|/(1+|x|^d) dx < \infty$, and hence $u \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha$ for any $\alpha > 0$. One can easily observe that \tilde{v} is a solution of

$$(2-23) \quad (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} \tilde{v}(x) = u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Define $\tilde{w}(x) = -\Delta u(x) - \tilde{v}(x)$, then it satisfies

$$(2-24) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} \tilde{w}(x) = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \tilde{w}(x) \geq 0 & x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

From [Lemma 2.3](#), we can deduce that

$$(2-25) \quad \tilde{w}(x) = -\Delta u(x) - \tilde{v}(x) \equiv C_1 \geq 0.$$

Therefore, we have proved [\(2-15\)](#), that is,

$$(2-26) \quad -\Delta u = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy + C_1 =: f(u) \geq C_1 \geq 0.$$

Next, we will prove u also satisfies the equivalent integral equation [\(2-9\)](#). For arbitrary $R > 0$, let

$$(2-27) \quad v_R(x) = \int_{B_R(0)} G_R^2(x, y) f(u)(y) dy,$$

where the Green's function for $-\Delta$ on $B_R(0)$ is given by

$$G_R^2(x, y) = C_d \left[\frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-2}} - \frac{1}{(|x|\cdot|Rx/|x|^2 - y/R|)^{d-2}} \right] \quad \text{if } x, y \in B_R(0),$$

and $G_R^2(x, y) = 0$ if x or $y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0)$. Then, we can get

$$(2-28) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta v_R(x) = f(u)(x), & x \in B_R(0), \\ v_R(x) = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0). \end{cases}$$

Let $w_R(x) = u(x) - v_R(x)$, by [\(2-26\)](#) and [\(2-28\)](#), we have

$$(2-29) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta w_R(x) = 0, & x \in B_R(0), \\ w_R(x) > 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_R(0). \end{cases}$$

By the maximum principle, we deduce that for any $R > 0$,

$$(2-30) \quad w_R(x) = u(x) - v_R(x) > 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Now, for each fixed $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, letting $R \rightarrow \infty$ in [\(2-30\)](#), we have

$$(2-31) \quad u(x) \geq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{2,d}}{|x-y|^{d-2}} f(u)(y) dy =: V(x) > 0.$$

Taking $x = 0$ in [\(2-31\)](#), we get

$$(2-32) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{C_1}{|y|^{d-2}} dy \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(u)(y)}{|y|^{d-2}} dy < \infty,$$

and it follows easily that $C_1 = 0$, and hence

$$-\Delta u = f(u) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|x - y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy.$$

One can easily observe that V is a solution of

$$(2-33) \quad -\Delta V(x) = f(u)(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Define $W(x) = u(x) - V(x)$, then it satisfies

$$(2-34) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta W(x) = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \\ W(x) \geq 0 & x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

From the Liouville theorem for harmonic functions, we can deduce that

$$(2-35) \quad W(x) = u(x) - V(x) \equiv C_2 \geq 0.$$

Therefore, we have proved that

$$(2-36) \quad u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{2,d}}{|x - y|^{d-2}} f(u)(y) dy + C_2 \geq C_2 \geq 0.$$

Now (2-22) implies that

$$(2-37) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{C_2^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y)}{|y|^{d-1}} dy \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y)}{|y|^{d-1}} dy < \infty,$$

from which we can infer that $C_2 = 0$. Thus, by using the formula

$$(2-38) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{d-2}} \cdot \frac{1}{|y|^{d-1}} dy = \frac{R_{3,d}}{R_{1,d} R_{2,d}} \cdot \frac{1}{|x|^{d-3}}$$

(see [Stein 1970]) and direct calculations, we finally deduce from (2-36) that

$$(2-39) \quad \begin{aligned} u(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{2,d}}{|x - y|^{d-2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|y - z|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(z) dz dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x - z|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(z) dz, \end{aligned}$$

that is, u also satisfies the equivalent integral equation (2-9).

(d) Suppose $\Delta u \in C_{loc}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}}{|x|^{d-3}} dx < \infty$$

and $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. By the above proof under assumption (c), we only need to prove the super-harmonic property $-\Delta u \geq 0$ under assumption (d).

For that purpose, we will first estimate the upper bound for $-v(x)$. Since one can verify that

$$(2-40) \quad \Delta v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{(d-3)R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \geq 0,$$

we deduce that, for $|x|$ sufficiently large,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq -v(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \\ &= \int_{|y-x| \geq \frac{|x|}{6}} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy + \int_{|y-x| < \frac{|x|}{6}} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \\ &\leq 7^{d-3} R_{3,d} \int_{|y-x| \geq \frac{|x|}{6}} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y)}{|y|^{d-3}} dy + \frac{|x|^2}{36} \int_{|y-x| < \frac{|x|}{6}} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y) dy \\ &\leq C_d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}(y)}{|y|^{d-3}} dy + \frac{|x|^2}{36(d-3)} \Delta v(x). \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, we deduce from the assumption

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}}{|x|^{d-3}} dx < \infty$$

that, as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,

$$(2-41) \quad 0 \leq -v(x) \leq O(1) + \frac{|x|^2}{36(d-3)} \Delta v(x).$$

Next, we can deduce from (2-11) that, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with $|x|$ sufficiently large and $r = |x|/2$,

$$(2-42) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta w(x) &\leq \frac{2d}{r^2} \left\{ \sup_{\frac{1}{2}|x| \leq |y| \leq \frac{3}{2}|x|} w(y) - u(x) - v(x) \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{2d}{r^2} \left\{ \sup_{\frac{1}{2}|x| \leq |y| \leq \frac{3}{2}|x|} u(y) - v(x) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we get from (2-40), (2-41), (2-42) and the assumption $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ that, as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$,

$$(2-43) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta w(x) = \Delta u(x) + \Delta v(x) &\leq \frac{8d}{|x|^2} \left\{ o(|x|^2) + O(1) + \frac{|x|^2}{36(d-3)} \Delta v(x) \right\} \\ &\leq o(1) + \frac{d}{4(d-3)} \Delta v(x). \end{aligned}$$

We can deduce from (2-43) that

$$(2-44) \quad \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \Delta u(x) \leq 0, \quad \text{that is,} \quad \liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} (-\Delta u(x)) \geq 0.$$

Therefore, from (1-1), (2-44) and the maximum principle (Lemma 2.2), we can infer

$$(2-45) \quad -\Delta u \geq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

In conclusion, we have proved respectively under the four different assumptions (a), (b), (c) and (d) on u that the classical solution u to PDE (1-1) always satisfies the equivalent integral equation (2-9). Applying [Chen et al. 2006, Theorem 1.1] ($u \in L_{loc}^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ was assumed therein) to integral equation (2-9), we deduce immediately that u is radially symmetric and monotone decreasing about some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and thus assumes the form

$$(2-46) \quad u(x) = \left(\frac{1}{R_{3,d} I\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{6}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda^2 |x - x_0|^2} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}$$

for some positive constant λ , where

$$I(s) := \frac{\pi^{\frac{d}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-2s}{2}\right)}{\Gamma(d-s)}$$

for $0 < s < \frac{d}{2}$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Remark 2.5. In the proof of Theorem 1.1 under assumption (d), one crucial step is to deduce $\Delta u \leq 0$ from the assumptions

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}}}{|x|^{d-3}} dx < \infty$$

and $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, where the fractional Laplacian $(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is given by definition (1-3). Suppose $(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ can be defined in terms of the Fourier transform, that is,

$$\widehat{(-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} f(\xi)} := (2\pi |\xi|) \hat{f}(\xi)$$

with $\hat{f}(\xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$, then the super-harmonic property $\Delta u \leq 0$ can be deduced directly from $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{(d+3)/(d-3)} / |x|^{d-1} dx < \infty$. Indeed, we only need to show that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (-\Delta u) \phi dx \geq 0$ for any nontrivial $0 \leq \phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$. To this end, we define

$$\psi(x) := (-\Delta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{1,d}}{|x-y|^{d-1}} \phi(y) dy \geq 0,$$

then $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and satisfy $(2\pi |\xi|) \hat{\psi}(\xi) = \hat{\phi}(\xi)$ (see [Stein 1970]). Moreover, one can easily verify that $\psi(x) \sim 1/|x|^{d-1}$ for $|x|$ large enough, thus we have

$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}} \psi dx < \infty$ provided $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}} / |x|^{d-1} dx < \infty$. Therefore, we may multiply both sides of the PDE (1-1) by ψ and integrate, then by Parseval’s formula, we get $\infty > \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^{\frac{d+3}{d-3}} \psi dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} u \cdot \psi dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (2\pi |\xi|)^{-\widehat{\Delta u}} \cdot \widehat{\psi} d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (-\Delta u) \cdot \phi dx \geq 0$.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.3

We define

$$(3-1) \quad v(x) := - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{|y-z|^6} |u(z)|^2 dz \right) u(y) dy,$$

$$w(x) := u(x) + v(x).$$

Since u is a solution to (1-10), we get immediately $(-\Delta)^{\frac{3}{2}} w \equiv 0$ and hence $\Delta^2 w \equiv 0$ in \mathbb{R}^d .

Our goal is to show under the following four entirely different assumptions (a), (b), (c) and (d) that the solution u to PDE (1-10) always satisfies the equivalent integral equation

$$(3-2) \quad u(x) = -v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{R_{3,d}}{|x-y|^{d-3}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{|y-z|^6} |u(z)|^2 dz \right) u(y) dy.$$

(a) Suppose $\Delta u \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. The key ingredients are showing $v \in L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\Delta v \in L^{2d/(d+1)}(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Indeed, let $P(x) := 1/|x|^6 * |u|^2$, then by the Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev inequality, one has

$$(3-3) \quad \|P\|_{L^{d/3}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C \|u^2\|_{L^{d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2.$$

Therefore, by using Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev inequality again, we get

$$(3-4) \quad \|v\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_d \|Pu\|_{L^{2d/(d+3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_d \|P\|_{L^{d/3}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \\ \leq C_d \|u\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-3}}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^3,$$

$$(3-5) \quad \|\Delta v\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d+1}}(\mathbb{R}^d)} = C_d \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{P(y)u(y)}{|x-y|^{d-1}} dy \right\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d+1}}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \\ \leq \tilde{C}_d \|Pu\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d+3}}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \tilde{C}_d \|u\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-3}}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^3.$$

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 1.1 under assumption (a) in Section 2.

(b) Suppose there exists some $\tau < 3$ such that $u(x) = O(|x|^\tau)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. Without loss of generality, we may assume $\tau > 2$. The key ingredient is proving $w(x) = O(|x|^{\tilde{\tau}})$ for some $\tau < \tilde{\tau} < 3$.

In fact, using Hölder’s inequality, one can verify that for $|x|$ large enough,

$$(3-6) \quad P(x) \leq \int_{|x-y| \geq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^6} |u(y)|^2 dy + \int_{|x-y| \leq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^6} |u(y)|^2 dy \\ \leq C_d + C_d \left(\sup_{\bar{B}_1(x)} u \right)^2 \leq C|x|^{2\tau}.$$

Therefore, by $P \in L^{\frac{d}{3}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and the Hölder inequality, we have for $|x|$ sufficiently large,

$$(3-7) \quad |v(x)| \leq C_d \left[\int_{|x-y| \geq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-3}} P(y)u(y) dy + \int_{|x-y| \leq 1} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{d-3}} P(y)u(y) dy \right] \\ \leq C_d + C_{d,\delta} \left(\sup_{\bar{B}_1(x)} u \right) \left(\sup_{\bar{B}_1(x)} P \right)^\delta \leq C|x|^{(1+2\delta)\tau},$$

where $\delta > 0$ is fixed sufficiently small such that $\tau < (1 + 2\delta)\tau < 3$. It follows that $w(x) = O(|x|^{\tilde{\tau}})$ with $\tilde{\tau} := (1 + 2\delta)\tau < 3$. The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) under assumption (b) in [Section 2](#).

(c) The proof is similar to the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) under assumption (c) in [Section 2](#).

(d) Suppose $\Delta u \in C_{loc}^{1,1} \cap \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $u(x) = o(|x|^2)$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. The key ingredient is proving $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} P(x)u(x)/|x|^{d-3} dx < \infty$. Indeed, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{P(x)u(x)}{|x|^{d-3}} dx \leq \int_{|x| \leq 1} \frac{1}{|x|^{d-3}} dx \cdot \|Pu\|_{L^\infty(\bar{B}_1)} \\ + \left(\int_{|x| > 1} \frac{1}{|x|^{2d}} dx \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2d}} \|P\|_{L^{d/3}} \|u\|_{L^{2d/(d-3)}} < \infty.$$

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) under assumption (d) in [Section 2](#).

In conclusion, we have proved respectively under the four different assumptions (a), (b), (c) and (d) on u that the classical solution u to PDE (1-10) always satisfies the equivalent integral equation (3-2). Applying [[Dai et al. 2018, Theorem 1.4](#)] ($u \in L^{\frac{2d}{d-3}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ was assumed therein) to integral equation (3-2), we deduce immediately that u is radially symmetric and monotone decreasing about some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and thus assumes the form

$$(3-8) \quad u(x) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{R_{3,d} I(3) I\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda^2 |x - x_0|^2} \right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}$$

for some positive constant λ . This concludes the proof of [Theorem 1.3](#).

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the referees for their careful reading and valuable comments and suggestions that improved the presentation of the paper.

References

- [Caffarelli and Silvestre 2007] L. Caffarelli and L. Silvestre, “An extension problem related to the fractional Laplacian”, *Comm. Partial Differential Equations* **32**:7-9 (2007), 1245–1260. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Caffarelli et al. 1989] L. A. Caffarelli, B. Gidas, and J. Spruck, “Asymptotic symmetry and local behavior of semilinear elliptic equations with critical Sobolev growth”, *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* **42**:3 (1989), 271–297. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Cao and Dai 2017] D. Cao and W. Dai, “Classification of nonnegative solutions to a bi-harmonic equation with Hartree type nonlinearity”, 2017. To appear in *Proc. Royal Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A*.
- [Chang and Yang 1997] S.-Y. A. Chang and P. C. Yang, “On uniqueness of solutions of n th order differential equations in conformal geometry”, *Math. Res. Lett.* **4**:1 (1997), 91–102. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Chen and Li 2010] W. Chen and C. Li, *Methods on nonlinear elliptic equations*, AIMS Series on Differential Equations & Dynamical Systems **4**, Amer. Inst. Math. Sci., Springfield, MO, 2010. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Chen et al. 2006] W. Chen, C. Li, and B. Ou, “Classification of solutions for an integral equation”, *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* **59**:3 (2006), 330–343. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Chen et al. 2015] W. Chen, Y. Fang, and R. Yang, “Liouville theorems involving the fractional Laplacian on a half space”, *Adv. Math.* **274** (2015), 167–198. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Chen et al. 2017] W. Chen, C. Li, and Y. Li, “A direct method of moving planes for the fractional Laplacian”, *Adv. Math.* **308** (2017), 404–437. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Dai et al. 2017] W. Dai, Z. Liu, and G. Lu, “Liouville type theorems for PDE and IE systems involving fractional Laplacian on a half space”, *Potential Anal.* **46**:3 (2017), 569–588. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Dai et al. 2018] W. Dai, Y. Fang, J. Huang, Y. Qin, and B. Wang, “Regularity and classification of solutions to static Hartree equations involving fractional Laplacians”, 2018, available at <http://www.escience.cn/system/download/88591>. To appear in *Discrete Contin. Dyn. Syst. Ser. A*.
- [Fröhlich and Lenzmann 2004] J. Fröhlich and E. Lenzmann, “Mean-field limit of quantum Bose gases and nonlinear Hartree equation”, exposé XIX in *Séminaire: Équations aux Dérivées Partielles, 2003–2004*, edited by J.-M. Bony et al., École Polytech., Palaiseau, 2004. [MR](#) [Zbl](#) [arXiv](#)
- [Gidas et al. 1979] B. Gidas, W. M. Ni, and L. Nirenberg, “Symmetry and related properties via the maximum principle”, *Comm. Math. Phys.* **68**:3 (1979), 209–243. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Kulczycki 1997] T. Kulczycki, “Properties of Green function of symmetric stable processes”, *Probab. Math. Statist.* **17**:2 (1997), 339–364. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Lieb 1983] E. H. Lieb, “Sharp constants in the Hardy–Littlewood–Sobolev and related inequalities”, *Ann. of Math. (2)* **118**:2 (1983), 349–374. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Lieb and Simon 1977] E. H. Lieb and B. Simon, “The Hartree–Fock theory for Coulomb systems”, *Comm. Math. Phys.* **53**:3 (1977), 185–194. [MR](#)
- [Lin 1998] C.-S. Lin, “A classification of solutions of a conformally invariant fourth order equation in \mathbb{R}^n ”, *Comment. Math. Helv.* **73**:2 (1998), 206–231. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Liu 2009] S. Liu, “Regularity, symmetry, and uniqueness of some integral type quasilinear equations”, *Nonlinear Anal.* **71**:5-6 (2009), 1796–1806. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)

- [Ma and Zhao 2010] L. Ma and L. Zhao, “Classification of positive solitary solutions of the nonlinear Choquard equation”, *Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal.* **195**:2 (2010), 455–467. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Silvestre 2007] L. Silvestre, “Regularity of the obstacle problem for a fractional power of the Laplace operator”, *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* **60**:1 (2007), 67–112. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Stein 1970] E. M. Stein, *Singular integrals and differentiability properties of functions*, Princeton Math. Series **30**, Princeton Univ. Press, 1970. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Wei and Xu 1999] J. Wei and X. Xu, “Classification of solutions of higher order conformally invariant equations”, *Math. Ann.* **313**:2 (1999), 207–228. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Xu 2005] X. Xu, “Exact solutions of nonlinear conformally invariant integral equations in \mathbb{R}^3 ”, *Adv. Math.* **194**:2 (2005), 485–503. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Xu 2006] X. Xu, “Classification of solutions of certain fourth-order nonlinear elliptic equations in \mathbb{R}^4 ”, *Pacific J. Math.* **225**:2 (2006), 361–378. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Zhu 2004] N. Zhu, “Classification of solutions of a conformally invariant third order equation in \mathbb{R}^3 ”, *Comm. Partial Differential Equations* **29**:11-12 (2004), 1755–1782. [MR](#) [Zbl](#)
- [Zhuo et al. 2014] R. Zhuo, W. Chen, X. Cui, and Z. Yuan, “A Liouville theorem for the fractional Laplacian”, preprint, 2014. [arXiv](#)

Received July 21, 2017. Revised January 31, 2018.

WEI DAI
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND SYSTEMS SCIENCE
BEIHANG UNIVERSITY (BUAA)
BEIJING
CHINA
weidai@buaa.edu.cn

GUOLIN QIN
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND SYSTEMS SCIENCE
BEIHANG UNIVERSITY (BUAA)
BEIJING
CHINA
qinbuaa@foxmail.com

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

Founded in 1951 by E. F. Beckenbach (1906–1982) and F. Wolf (1904–1989)

msp.org/pjm

EDITORS

Don Blasius (Managing Editor)
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555
blasius@math.ucla.edu

Paul Balmer
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555
balmer@math.ucla.edu

Wee Teck Gan
Mathematics Department
National University of Singapore
Singapore 119076
matgwt@nus.edu.sg

Sorin Popa
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555
popa@math.ucla.edu

Vyjayanthi Chari
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521-0135
chari@math.ucr.edu

Kefeng Liu
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555
liu@math.ucla.edu

Jie Qing
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
qing@cats.ucsc.edu

Daryl Cooper
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3080
cooper@math.ucsb.edu

Jiang-Hua Lu
Department of Mathematics
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam Rd., Hong Kong
jhlu@maths.hku.hk

Paul Yang
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton NJ 08544-1000
yang@math.princeton.edu

PRODUCTION

Silvio Levy, Scientific Editor, production@msp.org

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

ACADEMIA SINICA, TAIPEI
CALIFORNIA INST. OF TECHNOLOGY
INST. DE MATEMÁTICA PURA E APLICADA
KEIO UNIVERSITY
MATH. SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIV.
OREGON STATE UNIV.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
UNIV. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
UNIV. OF CALIF., SANTA BARBARA

UNIV. OF CALIF., SANTA CRUZ
UNIV. OF MONTANA
UNIV. OF OREGON
UNIV. OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
UNIV. OF UTAH
UNIV. OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

These supporting institutions contribute to the cost of publication of this Journal, but they are not owners or publishers and have no responsibility for its contents or policies.


See inside back cover or msp.org/pjm for submission instructions.

The subscription price for 2018 is US \$475/year for the electronic version, and \$640/year for print and electronic. Subscriptions, requests for back issues and changes of subscriber address should be sent to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, P.O. Box 4163, Berkeley, CA 94704-0163, U.S.A. The Pacific Journal of Mathematics is indexed by [Mathematical Reviews](#), [Zentralblatt MATH](#), [PASCAL CNRS Index](#), [Referativnyi Zhurnal](#), [Current Mathematical Publications](#) and [Web of Knowledge \(Science Citation Index\)](#).

The Pacific Journal of Mathematics (ISSN 0030-8730) at the University of California, c/o Department of Mathematics, 798 Evans Hall #3840, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, is published twelve times a year. Periodical rate postage paid at Berkeley, CA 94704, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, P.O. Box 4163, Berkeley, CA 94704-0163.

PJM peer review and production are managed by EditFLOW® from Mathematical Sciences Publishers.

PUBLISHED BY

 **mathematical sciences publishers**
nonprofit scientific publishing

<http://msp.org/>

© 2018 Mathematical Sciences Publishers

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

Volume 295 No. 2 August 2018

Nonsmooth convex caustics for Birkhoff billiards	257
MAXIM ARNOLD and MISHA BIALY	
Certain character sums and hypergeometric series	271
RUPAM BARMAN and NEELAM SAIKIA	
On the structure of holomorphic isometric embeddings of complex unit balls into bounded symmetric domains	291
SHAN TAI CHAN	
Hamiltonian stationary cones with isotropic links	317
JINGYI CHEN and YU YUAN	
Quandle theory and the optimistic limits of the representations of link groups	329
JINSEOK CHO	
Classification of positive smooth solutions to third-order PDEs involving fractional Laplacians	367
WEI DAI and GUOLIN QIN	
The projective linear supergroup and the SUSY-preserving automorphisms of $\mathbb{P}^{1 1}$	385
RITA FIORESI and STEPHEN D. KWOK	
The Gromov width of coadjoint orbits of the symplectic group	403
IVA HALACHEVA and MILENA PABINIAK	
Minimal braid representatives of quasipositive links	421
KYLE HAYDEN	
Four-dimensional static and related critical spaces with harmonic curvature	429
JONGSU KIM and JINWOO SHIN	
Boundary Schwarz lemma for nonequidimensional holomorphic mappings and its application	463
YANG LIU, ZHIHUA CHEN and YIFEI PAN	
Theta correspondence and the Prasad conjecture for $SL(2)$	477
HENGFEI LU	
Convexity of level sets and a two-point function	499
BEN WEINKOVE	