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Hugo Aimar, Gastón Beltritti and Ivana Gómez

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Publications Director: Dr. Rubén Spies
E-mail: rspies@santafe-conicet.gov.ar

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MEAN VALUE FORMULAS FOR SOLUTIONS OF SOME DEGENERATE ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

HUGO AIMAR, GASTÓN BELTRITTI, AND IVANA GÓMEZ

ABSTRACT. We prove a mean value formula for weak solutions of $\operatorname{div}(|y|^a \operatorname{grad} u) = 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$, $-1 < a < 1$ and balls centered at points of the form $(x, 0)$. We obtain an explicit nonlocal kernel for the mean value formula for solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ on a domain D of \mathbb{R}^n . When D is Lipschitz we prove a Besov type regularity improvement for the solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$.

INTRODUCTION

In [2], L. Caffarelli and L. Silvestre show how the fractional powers of $-\Delta$ in \mathbb{R}^n can be obtained as Dirichlet to Neumann type operators in the extended domain \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . The operator in the extended domain is given by $L_a u = \operatorname{div}(|y|^a \operatorname{grad} u)$, where $a \in (-1, 1)$, $u = u(x, y)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $y \in \mathbb{R}$ and div and grad are the standard divergence and gradient operators in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$. The exponent a is related to the fractional power of the Laplacian $(-\Delta)^s$ through $2s = 1 - a$. Notice that when $a = 0$ the operator L_a is the Laplacian in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and $s = \frac{1}{2}$.

Since for $a \in (-1, 1)$ the weight $w(x, y) = |y|^a$ belongs to the Muckenhoupt class $A_2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$, the regularity theory developed by Fabes, Kenig and Serapioni in [6], can be applied. The fact that w is in $A_2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ follows easily from the fact that it is a product of the weight which is constant and equal to one in \mathbb{R}^n times the $A_2(\mathbb{R})$ weight $|y|^a$ for $a \in (-1, 1)$. In particular Harnack's inequality and Hölder regularity of solutions are available.

It seems to be clear that, when $a \neq 0$, the weight $w(x, y) = |y|^a$ introduces a bias which prevents us from expecting mean values on spherical objects in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Except at $y = 0$, where the symmetry of w with respect to the hyperplane $y = 0$ may bring back to spheres their classical role. In [5] some generalizations of classical mean value formulas are also considered.

By choosing adequate test functions we shall prove the mean value formula, for balls centered at the hyperplane $y = 0$, for weak solutions v of $L_a v = 0$.

The above considerations would only allow mean values for solutions with balls centered at such small sets as the hyperplane $y = 0$ of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . But it turns out that this suffice to get mean value formulas for solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$.

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In [11] a mean value formula is proved as Proposition 2.2.13, see also [8]. In order to obtain improvement results for the Besov regularity of solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ in the spirit of [3] and [1], our formula seems to be more suitable because we can get explicit estimates for the gradients of the mean value kernel. Regarding Besov regularity of harmonic functions see also [7].

The paper is organized in three sections. In the first one we prove mean value formulas for solutions of $L_a u = 0$ at the points on the hyperplane $y = 0$ of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . The second section is devoted to apply the result in Section 1 in order to obtain a nonlocal mean value formula for solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ on domains of \mathbb{R}^n . Finally, in Section 3, we use the above results to obtain a Besov regularity improvement for solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ in Lipschitz domains of \mathbb{R}^n . At this point we would like to mention the recent results in [10] in relation with the rate of convergence of nonlinear approximation methods observed by Dahlke and DeVore in the harmonic case.

1. MEAN VALUE FORMULA FOR SOLUTIONS OF $L_a u = 0$

Let D be a domain in \mathbb{R}^n . Let Ω be the open set in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} given by $\Omega = D \times (-d, d)$ with d the diameter of D . Notice that for $x \in D$ and $r > 0$ such that $B(x, r) \subset D$, then $S((x, 0), r) \subset \Omega$ where B denotes balls in \mathbb{R}^n and S denotes the balls in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . With $H^1(|y|^a)$ we denote the Sobolev space of those functions in $L^2(|y|^a dx dy)$ for which ∇f belongs to $L^2(|y|^a dx dy)$.

A weak solution v of $L_a v = 0$ in Ω is a function in the weighted Sobolev space $H^1(|y|^a)$, such that

$$\iint_{\Omega} \nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi |y|^a dx dy = 0$$

for every test function ψ supported in Ω .

The main result of this section is contained in the next statement. As in [2] we shall use X to denote the points (x, y) in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} with $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}$. For $x \in D$ with $\delta(x)$ we shall denote the distance from x to ∂D .

Theorem 1. *Let v be a weak solution of $L_a v = 0$ in Ω . Let $\varphi(X) = \eta(|X|)$, $\eta \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^+)$ supported in the interval $[\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}]$ and $\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}} \varphi(X) |y|^a dX = 1$ be given. If $x \in D$ and $0 < r < \delta(x)$, then*

$$v(x, 0) = \iint_{\Omega} \varphi_r(x - z, -y) v(z, y) |y|^a dz dy$$

with

$$\varphi_r(X) = \frac{1}{r^{n+1+a}} \varphi\left(\frac{X}{r}\right).$$

Proof. Set $A = \int_0^\infty \rho \eta(\rho) d\rho$ and $\zeta(t) = \int_0^t \rho \eta(\rho) d\rho - A$. Notice that $\zeta(t) \equiv 0$ for $t \geq \frac{3}{4}$ and $\zeta(t) \equiv -A$ for $0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{4}$. The function $\psi(X) = \zeta(|X|)$ is, then, in $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ and has compact support in the ball $S((0, 0), 1)$. It is easy to check that $\nabla \psi(X) = \varphi(X) X$. Take now $x \in D$ and $0 < r < \delta(x)$. Set $\varphi_r(Z) = r^{-n-1-a} \varphi(r^{-1} Z)$, $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, and define

$$\Phi_x(r) = \iint_{\Omega} \varphi_r(X - Z) v(Z) |y|^a dZ,$$

where $X = (x, 0)$, $Z = (z, y)$, $dZ = dzdy$ and v is a weak solution of $L_a v = 0$ in Ω . As usual, we aim to prove that $\Phi_x(r)$ is a constant function of r and that $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \Phi_x(r) = v(X)$. From the results in [6] with $w(Z) = |y|^a$, which belongs to the Muckenhoupt class $A_2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ when $-1 < a < 1$, we know that v is Hölder continuous on each compact subset of Ω . Then the convergence $\Phi_x(r) \rightarrow v(X) = v(x, 0)$ as $r \rightarrow 0$, follows from the fact that

$$\iint \varphi_r(Z) |y|^a dZ = \frac{1}{r^{a+1+n}} \iint \varphi\left(\frac{z}{r}, \frac{y}{r}\right) |y|^a dzdy = 1.$$

In order to prove that $\Phi_x(r)$ is constant as a function of r we shall take its derivative with respect to r for fixed x . Notice first that

$$\Phi_x(r) = \iint_{S((0,0),1)} \varphi(Z) v(X - rZ) |y|^a dzdy.$$

Since $\nabla v \in L^2(|y|^a dX)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr} \Phi_x(r) &= - \iint_{S((0,0),1)} \varphi(Z) \nabla v(X - rZ) \cdot Z |y|^a dZ \\ &= - \iint_{S((0,0),1)} \nabla v(X - rZ) \cdot \nabla \psi(Z) |y|^a dZ \\ &= - \frac{1}{r^{a+1+n}} \iint_{\Omega} \nabla v(Z) \cdot \nabla \psi\left(\frac{X - Z}{r}\right) |y|^a dZ \\ &= \iint_{\Omega} \nabla v(Z) \cdot \nabla \left[\frac{1}{r^{n+a}} \psi\left(\frac{X - Z}{r}\right) \right] |y|^a dZ, \end{aligned}$$

which vanishes since $\frac{1}{r^{n+a}} \psi\left(\frac{X - Z}{r}\right)$ as a function of Z is a test function for the fact that v solves $L_a v = 0$ in Ω . \square

2. MEAN VALUE FORMULA FOR SOLUTIONS OF $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$

In this section we shall use the results and we shall closely follow the notation in [2]. Take $f \in L^1\left(\mathbb{R}^n, \frac{dx}{(1+|x|)^{n+2s}}\right)$ with $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ on the domain $D \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then,

with $u(x, y) = (P_y^a * f)(x)$ and $P_y^a(x) = C y^{1-a} (|x|^2 + y^2)^{-\frac{n+1-a}{2}}$ the function

$$v(x, y) = \begin{cases} u(x, y) & \text{in } D \times \mathbb{R}^+ \\ u(x, -y) & \text{in } D \times \mathbb{R}^- \end{cases}$$

is a weak solution of $L_a v = 0$ in $D \times \mathbb{R}$. In particular v is Hölder continuous in $D \times \mathbb{R}$ from the results in [6]. Theorem 1 guarantees that, for $0 < r < \delta(x)$ and $x \in D$,

$$f(x) = u(x, 0) = v(x, 0) = \iint \varphi_r(X - Z) v(Z) |y|^a dZ \quad (2.1)$$

where, as before, $X = (x, 0)$ and $Z = (z, y)$. On the other hand, the definitions of v and u provide the formula

$$v(Z) = v(z, y) = \left(P_{|y|}^a * f \right)(z). \quad (2.2)$$

Replacing (2.2) in (2.1), provided that the interchange of the order of integration holds, we obtain the main result of this section.

Theorem 2. Let $0 < s < 1$ be given. Assume that D in an open set in \mathbb{R}^n on which $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$. Then for every $x \in D$ and every $0 < r < \delta(x)$ we have that $f(x) = (\Phi_r * f)(x)$, where $\Phi_r(x) = r^{-n} \Phi(\frac{x}{r})$, $\Phi(x) = \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(x - z) |y|^a dz dy$, $\varphi_r(x, y) = r^{-(n+1+a)} \varphi(\frac{x}{r}, \frac{y}{r})$, φ is a $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ radial function supported in the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} with $\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}} \varphi(x, y) |y|^a dx dy = 1$ and P_y^a is a constant times $y^{1-a} (|x|^2 + y^2)^{-\frac{n+1-a}{2}}$.

Proof. Inserting (2.2) in (2.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= v(x, 0) = \iint \varphi_r(x - z, -y) v(z, y) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \iint \varphi_r(x - z, y) (P_{|y|}^a * f)(z) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_r(x - z, -y) \left(\int_{\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n} P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) f(\bar{z}) d\bar{z} \right) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left(\int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_r(x - z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) |y|^a dz dy \right) f(\bar{z}) d\bar{z} \\ &= \int_{\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_r(x, \bar{z}) f(\bar{z}) d\bar{z}, \end{aligned}$$

with $\Phi_r(x, \bar{z}) = \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_r(x - z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) |y|^a dz dy$. The last equality in the above formula follows from the fact that $\frac{f(\bar{z})}{(1+|\bar{z}|^2)^{\frac{n+1-a}{2}}}$ is integrable in \mathbb{R}^n , since

$$\int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} |\varphi(x - z, -y)| P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) |y|^a dz dy \leq \frac{C}{(1 + |\bar{z}|^2)^{\frac{n+1-a}{2}}}$$

for some positive constant C . In fact, on one hand

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} |\varphi(x - z, -y)| P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) |y|^a dz dy \\ &\leq \int_{-1}^1 \|\varphi(x - \cdot, y)\|_{L^\infty} \left\| P_{|y|}^a(\cdot - \bar{z}) \right\|_{L^1} |y|^a dy \leq C; \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

on the other, for $|\bar{z} - x| > 2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} |\varphi(x - z, -y)| P_{|y|}^a(z - \bar{z}) |y|^a dz dy \\ &\leq C \iint_{S((x,0),1)} \frac{|y|}{(y^2 + |z - \bar{z}|^2)^{\frac{n+1-a}{2}}} dz dy \\ &\leq \frac{C}{|x - \bar{z}|^{n+1-a}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

So that $\Phi_r(x, \bar{z}) \leq \frac{C(r)}{(1+|x-\bar{z}|)^{n+1-a}} \leq \frac{C(x,r)}{(1+|x|)^{n+1-a}}$, hence $\int \Phi_r(x, \bar{z}) f(\bar{z}) d\bar{z}$ is absolutely convergent. It remains to prove that $\Phi_r(x, \bar{z}) = \frac{1}{r^n} \Phi(\frac{x-\bar{z}}{r})$ with $\Phi(x) = \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(x - z) |y|^a dz dy$. Let us compute $\Phi(\frac{x-\bar{z}}{r})$ changing variables.

First in \mathbb{R}^n with $\nu = x - rz$, then in \mathbb{R} with $t = ry$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi\left(\frac{x - \bar{z}}{r}\right) &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(z, -y) P_{|y|}^a\left(\frac{x - \bar{z} - rz}{r}\right) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{r^n} \varphi\left(\frac{x - \nu}{r}, -y\right) P_{|y|}^a\left(\frac{\nu - \bar{z}}{r}\right) |y|^a d\nu dy \\ &= \int_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{r^{n+1+a}} \varphi\left(\frac{x - \nu}{r}, -\frac{t}{r}\right) P_{\left|\frac{t}{r}\right|}^a\left(\frac{\nu - \bar{z}}{r}\right) |t|^a d\nu dt \\ &= r^n \int_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_r(x - \nu, -t) P_{|t|}^a(\nu - \bar{z}) |t|^a d\nu dt \\ &= r^n \Phi_r(x, \bar{z}), \end{aligned}$$

as desired. □

We collect in the next result some basic properties of the mean value kernel Φ .

Proposition 3. *The function Φ defined in the statement of Theorem 2 satisfies the following properties.*

- (a) $\Phi(x)$ is radial;
- (b) $(1 + |x|)^{n+1-a} |\Phi(x)|$ is bounded;
- (c) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(x) dx = 1$;
- (d) $\sup_{r>0} |(\Phi_r * f)(x)| \leq cMf(x)$, where M is the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator in \mathbb{R}^n ;
- (e) if $\Psi^i(x) = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x_i}(x)$, then $\Psi^i(0) = 0$ and $\int \Psi^i(x) dx = 0$;
- (f) for some constant $C > 0$, $|\Psi^i(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|^{n+2-a}}$ for $|x| > 2$;
- (g) $|\nabla \Psi^i|$ is bounded on \mathbb{R}^n for every $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Proof. Let ρ be a rotation of \mathbb{R}^n , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(\rho x) &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(\rho x - z) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(\rho^{-1} z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(\rho^{-1}(\rho x - z)) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(\rho^{-1} z, -y) P_{|y|}^a(x - \rho^{-1} z) |y|^a dz dy \\ &= \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(\bar{z}, -y) P_{|y|}^a(x - \bar{z}) |y|^a d\bar{z} dy \\ &= \Phi(x), \end{aligned}$$

which proves (a). Part (b) has already been proved in (2.3) and (2.4). By taking $f \equiv 1$ in Theorem 2 we get (c). From (a) and (c) the estimate of the maximal operator is a classical result (see [12]). Item (e) follows from the fact that Φ is radial and smooth and from (c).

Let us now show that $|\Psi^i(x)| \leq \frac{C}{|x|^{n+2-a}}$ for $|x| > 2$. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\Psi^i(x)| &= 2 \left| \int_0^\infty \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i}(z, y) P_y^a(x-z)y^a dz dy \right| \\
 &= 2 \left| \int_0^1 \int_{z \in B(0,1)} \varphi(z, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (P_y^a(x-z)y^a) dz dy \right| \\
 &\leq C \int_0^1 \int_{z \in B(0,1)} |\varphi(z, y)| \frac{1}{|x-z|^{n+2-a}} dz dy \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{(|x|-1)^{n+2-a}} \int_0^1 \int_{z \in B(0,1)} |\varphi(z, y)| dz dy \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{|x|^{n+2-a}}. \tag{2.5}
 \end{aligned}$$

By taking the derivatives of the function φ the proof of (g) proceeds as in (2.3). \square

3. MAXIMAL ESTIMATES FOR GRADIENTS OF SOLUTIONS OF $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ IN OPEN DOMAINS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF BESOV REGULARITY

The mean value formula proved in Section 2 for solutions of $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ in an open domain D of \mathbb{R}^n can be used to obtain improvement of Besov regularity of f . Here we illustrate how Theorem 2 can be used to get a result in the lines introduced by Dahlke and DeVore for harmonic functions. We shall prove the following result.

Theorem 4. *Let D be a bounded Lipschitz domain in \mathbb{R}^n . Let $0 < s < 1$. Let $1 < p < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda < \frac{n-1}{n}$ be given. Assume that $f \in B_p^\lambda(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and that $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ on D , then $f \in B_\tau^\alpha(D)$ with $\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{\alpha}{n}$ and $0 < \alpha < \lambda \frac{n}{n-1}$.*

Here $B_p^\lambda(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $B_\tau^\alpha(D)$ denote the standard Besov spaces on \mathbb{R}^n and on D with $p = q$ for the usual notation $B_{p,q}^\lambda$ of this scale. Among the several descriptions of these spaces the best suited for our purposes is the characterization through wavelet coefficients [9].

It is worthy noticing that in contrast with the local cases associated to the harmonic functions in [3] and the temperatures in [1], now the B_p^λ regularity is required on the whole space \mathbb{R}^n and that the improvement is only in D .

The basic scheme is that in [3], and the central tool is then the estimate contained in the next statement.

Lemma 5. *Let D be a domain of \mathbb{R}^n . Let $0 < \lambda < 1$ and $1 < p < \infty$. For $f \in B_p^\lambda(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $(-\Delta)^s f = 0$ on D , we have*

$$\left(\int_D |\delta(x)^{1-\lambda} \nabla f(x)|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq C \|f\|_{B_p^\lambda(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

where $\delta(x)$ is the distance from x to the boundary of D , ∇f is the gradient of f and C is a constant.

The main difference between the local case in [3] and our nonlocal setting is precisely provided by the fact that since our mean value kernel is not localized in D , the Calderón maximal operator needs to be taken on the whole \mathbb{R}^n , not only on D .

The result is itself a consequence of a pointwise estimate of the gradient of f in terms of the sharp Calderón maximal operator and [4]. The result is contained in the next statement and follows from the mean value formula in Theorem 2, and the basic properties of the mean value kernel Φ_r and its first order partial derivatives contained in Proposition 3. .

Lemma 6. *Let D and λ be as in Lemma 5 and let $x \in D$ and $0 < r < \delta(x)$. Then*

$$|\nabla f(x)| \leq Cr^{\lambda-1} M^{\#, \lambda} f(x),$$

with

$$M^{\#, \lambda} f(x) = \sup \frac{1}{|B|^{1+\frac{\lambda}{n}}} \int_B |f(y) - f(x)| dy$$

where the supremum is taken on the family of all balls of \mathbb{R}^n containing x .

Proof. From the definition of Φ it is clear that $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Phi_r(x) = \frac{1}{r} \Psi_r^i(x)$ with $\Psi^i(x) = 2 \int_0^\infty \int_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z_i}(z, y) P_y^a(x-z) y^a dz dy$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Since from (e) in Proposition 3 we have that $\Psi^i(0) = 0$, then

$$|\Psi_r^i(x)| = |\Psi_r^i(x) - \Psi_r^i(0)| \leq |x| \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla \Psi_r^i(\xi)| \leq \frac{C}{r^{n+1}} |x|, \quad (3.1)$$

from (g) in Proposition 3. This is a good estimate in a neighborhood of 0. Applying the mean value formula for f we get the result after the following estimates,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_i} \right| &= \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\Phi_r * f)(x) \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{r} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x-z) \Psi_r^i(z) dz \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{r} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x-z) - f(x)) \Psi_r^i(z) dz \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{r} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(z) - f(x)) \Psi_r^i(x-z) dz \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{r} \int_{B(x, 2r)} |f(z) - f(x)| |\Psi_r^i(x-z)| dz + \frac{1}{r} \int_{B^c(x, 2r)} |f(z) - f(x)| |\Psi_r^i(x-z)| dz \\ &= I + II. \end{aligned}$$

We shall bound I using (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= \frac{1}{r} \int_{B(x,2r)} |f(z) - f(x)| |\Psi_r^i(x-z)| dz \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{r^{n+2}} \int_{B(x,2r)} |f(z) - f(x)| |x-z| dz \\
 &= \frac{C}{r^{n+2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{\{z: 2^{-j-1} \leq \frac{|x-z|}{2r} < 2^{-j}\}} |f(z) - f(x)| |x-z| dz \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{r^{n+2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{B(x,2^{-j+1}r)} |f(z) - f(x)| 2^{-j+1} r dz \\
 &= \frac{C}{r^{n+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 2^{-j+1} (2^{-j+1}r)^{n+\lambda} \frac{1}{(2^{-j+1}r)^{n+\lambda}} \int_{B(x,2^{-j+1}r)} |f(z) - f(x)| dz \\
 &\leq Cr^{\lambda-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (2^{-j+1})^{n+\lambda+1} M^{\#, \lambda} f(x) \\
 &= Cr^{\lambda-1} M^{\#, \lambda} f(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now from (f) in Proposition 3,

$$\begin{aligned}
 II &= \frac{1}{r} \int_{B^c(x,2r)} |f(z) - f(x)| |\Psi_r^i(x-z)| dz \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{r} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{\{z: 2^j \leq \frac{|x-z|}{2r} < 2^{j+1}\}} |f(z) - f(x)| \frac{r^{2-a}}{|x-z|^{n+2-a}} dz \\
 &\leq Cr^{1-a} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{\{z: 2^j \leq \frac{|x-z|}{2r} < 2^{j+1}\}} |f(z) - f(x)| \frac{1}{(2^{j+1}r)^{n+2-a}} dz \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{r^{n+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (2^{j+1})^{-n-2+a} \frac{(r2^{j+2})^{n+\lambda}}{(r2^{j+2})^{n+\lambda}} \int_{B(x,2^{j+2}r)} |f(z) - f(x)| dz \\
 &\leq Cr^{\lambda-1} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (2^{j+2})^{\lambda-2+a} \right) M^{\#, \lambda} f(x) \\
 &= Cr^{\lambda-1} M^{\#, \lambda} f(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

and the Lemma is proved. □

Proof of Theorem 4. Follows closely the lines of the proof of Theorem 3 in [3]. The only point in which the nonlocal character of our situation becomes relevant is contained in the first estimates on page 11 in [3]. On the other hand, our upper restriction on λ is only a consequence of the fact that we are using only estimates for the first order derivatives. Our restriction guarantees the convergence of the series involved in the above mentioned estimates in [3]. □

Let us finally remark that after a fine tuning of the function φ larger values of λ can be achieved.

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INSTITUTO DE MATEMÁTICA APLICADA DEL LITORAL (IMAL), CONICET-UNL
Güemes 3450, S3000GLN Santa Fe, Argentina.

E-mail address: haimar@santafe-conicet.gov.ar

E-mail address: gbeltritti@santafe-conicet.gov.ar

E-mail address: ivanagomez@santafe-conicet.gov.ar