# BREZIS-BOURGAIN-MIRONESCU FORMULA FOR MAGNETIC OPERATORS

#### MARCO SQUASSINA AND BRUNO VOLZONE

ABSTRACT. We prove a Brezis-Bourgain-Mironescu type formula for a class of nonlocal magnetic spaces, which builds a bridge between a fractional magnetic operator recently introduced and the classical theory.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $s \in (0,1)$  and N > 2s. If  $A : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  is a smooth function, the nonlocal operator

$$(-\Delta)^s_A u(x) = c(N,s) \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \int_{B^c_\varepsilon(x)} \frac{u(x) - e^{\mathbf{i}(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dy, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

has been recently introduced in [6], where the ground state solutions of  $(-\Delta)_A^s u + u = |u|^{p-2}u$  in the three dimensional setting have been obtained via concentration compactness arguments. If A = 0, then the above operator is consistent with the usual notion of fractional Laplacian. The motivations that led to its introduction are carefully described in [6] and rely essentially on the Lévy-Khintchine formula for the generator of a general Lévy process. We point out that the normalization constant c(N, s) satisfies

$$\lim_{s \nearrow 1} \frac{c(N,s)}{1-s} = \frac{4N\Gamma(N/2)}{2\pi^{N/2}},$$

where  $\Gamma$  denotes the Gamma function. For the sake of completeness, we recall that different definitions of nonlocal magnetic operator are viable, see e.g. [8,9]. All these notions aim to extend the well-know definition of the magnetic Schrödinger operator

$$\left(\nabla - \mathrm{i}A(x)\right)^2 u = -\Delta u + 2\mathrm{i}A(x) \cdot \nabla u + |A(x)|^2 u + \mathrm{i}u \operatorname{div}A(x),$$

namely the differential of the energy functional

$$\mathcal{E}_A(u) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 dx,$$

for which we refer the reader to [1,2,11] and the included references. In order to corroborate the justification for the introduction of  $(-\Delta)_A^s$ , in this note we prove that a well-known formula due to Brezis, Bourgain and Mironescu (see [3,4,10]) for the limit of the Gagliardo semi-norm of  $H^s(\Omega)$  as  $s \nearrow 1$  extends to the magnetic setting. As a consequence, in a suitable sense, from the nonlocal to the local regime, it holds

$$(-\Delta)^s_A u \rightsquigarrow (\nabla - iA(x))^2 u$$
, for  $s \nearrow 1$ .

Precisely, we have the following

**Theorem 1.1** (Magnetic Brezis-Bourgain-Mironescu). Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be an open bounded set with Lipschitz boundary and  $A \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Then, for every  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$ , we have

$$\lim_{s \neq 1} (1-s) \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dx dy = K_N \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 dx,$$

<sup>2010</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. 49A50, 26A33, 82D99.

Key words and phrases. Fractional spaces, magnetic Sobolev spaces, Brezis-Bourgain-Mironescu limit.

The research of the authors was partially supported by Gruppo Nazionale per l'Analisi Matematica, la Probabilità e le loro Applicazioni (INdAM).

where

(1.1) 
$$K_N = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{N-1}} |\omega \cdot \mathbf{e}|^2 d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\omega)$$

being  $\mathbb{S}^{N-1}$  the unit sphere and  $\mathbf{e}$  any unit vector in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

As a variant of Theorem 1.1, if  $H^1_{0,A}(\Omega)$  denotes the closure of  $C^{\infty}_c(\Omega)$  in  $H^1_A(\Omega)$ , there holds

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be an open bounded set with Lipschitz boundary and  $A \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Then, for every  $u \in H^1_{0,A}(\Omega)$ , we have

$$\lim_{s \neq 1} (1-s) \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dx dy = K_N \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 dx.$$

**Notations.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be an open set. We denote by  $L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{C})$  the Lebesgue space of complex valued functions with summable square. For  $s \in (0, 1)$ , the magnetic Gagliardo semi-norm is

$$[u]_{H^{s}_{A}(\Omega)} := \sqrt{\int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^{2}}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dxdy$$

We denote by  $H^s_A(\Omega)$  the space of functions  $u \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{C})$  such that  $[u]_{H^s_A(\Omega)} < \infty$  endowed with

$$\|u\|_{H^s_A(\Omega)} := \sqrt{\|u\|^2_{L^2(\Omega)} + [u]^2_{H^s_A(\Omega)}}$$

We also consider

$$[u]_{H^1_A(\Omega)} := \sqrt{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 dx}$$

and define  $H^1_A(\Omega)$  as the space of functions  $u \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{C})$  such that  $[u]_{H^1_A(\Omega)} < \infty$  endowed with

$$\|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)} := \sqrt{\|u\|^2_{L^2(\Omega)} + [u]^2_{H^1_A(\Omega)}}.$$

We denote by  $B(x_0, R)$  the ball in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  of center  $x_0$  and radius R > 0. For any set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  we will denote by  $E^c$  the complement of E. For  $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  open and bounded,  $A \Subset B$  means  $\overline{A} \subset B$ .

### 2. Preliminary results

We start with the following Lemma.

**Lemma 2.1.** Assume that  $A : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  is locally bounded. Then, for any compact  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $\Omega \in V$ , there exists C = C(A, V) > 0 such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u(y+h) - e^{ih \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2 dy \le C|h|^2 ||u||^2_{H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)},$$

for all  $u \in H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that u = 0 on  $V^c$  and any  $h \in \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $|h| \leq 1$ .

*Proof.* Assume first that  $u \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with u = 0 on  $V^c$ . Fix  $y, h \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and define

$$\varphi(t) := e^{\mathbf{i}(1-t)h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} u(y+th), \quad t \in [0,1].$$

Then we have

$$u(y+h) - e^{\mathbf{i}h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)}u(y) = \varphi(1) - \varphi(0) = \int_0^1 \varphi'(t)dt$$

and since

$$\varphi'(t) = e^{\mathrm{i}(1-t)h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} h \cdot \left(\nabla_y u(y+th) - \mathrm{i}A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)u(y+th)\right).$$

by Hölder inequality we get

$$|u(y+h) - e^{ih \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)}u(y)|^2 \le |h|^2 \int_0^1 \left|\nabla_y u(y+th) - iA\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)u(y+th)\right|^2 dt.$$

Therefore, integrating with respect to y over  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and using Fubini's Theorem, we get

$$\begin{split} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |u(y+h) - e^{\mathrm{i}h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} u(y)|^{2} dy &\leq |h|^{2} \int_{0}^{1} dt \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \left| \nabla_{y} u(y+th) - \mathrm{i}A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right) u(y+th) \right|^{2} dy \\ &= |h|^{2} \int_{0}^{1} dt \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \left| \nabla_{z} u(z) - \mathrm{i}A\left(z+\frac{1-2t}{2}h\right) u(z) \right|^{2} dz \\ &\leq 2|h|^{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |\nabla_{z} u(z) - \mathrm{i}A(z) u(z)|^{2} dz \\ &+ 2|h|^{2} \int_{V} \left| A\left(z+\frac{1-2t}{2}h\right) - A(z) \right|^{2} |u(z)|^{2} dz. \end{split}$$

Then, since A is bounded on the set V, we have for some constant C > 0

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u(y+h) - e^{\mathrm{i}h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2 dy \le C|h|^2 \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla_z u(z) - \mathrm{i}A(z) u(z)|^2 dz + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u(z)|^2 dz \right)$$
$$= C|h|^2 ||u||^2_{H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)}.$$

When dealing with a general u we can argue by a density argument.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be an open bounded set with Lipschitz boundary,  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  a compact set with  $\Omega \in V$  and  $A : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  locally bounded. Then there exists  $C(\Omega, V, A) > 0$  such that for any  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$  there exists  $Eu \in H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that Eu = u in  $\Omega$ , Eu = 0 in  $V^c$  and

$$||Eu||_{H^1_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathbb{R}^N)} \le C(\Omega, V, A) ||u||_{H^1_{\mathcal{A}}(\Omega)}.$$

*Proof.* Observe that, for any bounded set  $W \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  there exist  $C_1(A, W), C_2(A, W) > 0$  with

$$C_1(A, W) \|u\|_{H^1(W)} \le \|u\|_{H^1_A(W)} \le C_2(A, W) \|u\|_{H^1(W)}, \text{ for any } u \in H^1(W)$$

This follows easily, via simple computations, by the definition of the norm of  $H^1_A(W)$  and in view of the local boundedness assumption on the potential A, see [1, Lemma 2.3] for further details. Now, by the standard extension property for  $H^1(\Omega)$  (see e.g. [7, Theorem 1, p.254]) there exists  $C(\Omega, V) > 0$  such that for any  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$  there exists a function  $Eu \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that Eu = u in  $\Omega$ , Eu = 0 in  $V^c$  and  $\|Eu\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)} \leq C(\Omega, V) \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}$ . Then, for any  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|Eu\|_{H^{1}_{A}(\mathbb{R}^{N})} &= \|Eu\|_{H^{1}_{A}(V)} \leq C_{2}(A,V)\|Eu\|_{H^{1}(V)} = C_{2}(A,V)\|Eu\|_{H^{1}(\mathbb{R}^{N})} \\ &\leq C(\Omega,V)C_{2}(A,V)\|u\|_{H^{1}(\Omega)} \leq C(\Omega,V)C_{2}(A,V)C_{1}^{-1}(A,\Omega)\|u\|_{H^{1}_{A}(\Omega)}, \end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof.

We can now prove the following result:

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $A : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  be locally bounded. Let  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$  and  $\rho \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with  $\rho \ge 0$ . Then

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho(x-y) \, dx dy \le C \|\rho\|_{L^1} \|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)}^2$$

where C depends only on  $\Omega$  and A.

*Proof.* Let  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a fixed compact set with  $\Omega \in V$ . Given  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$ , by Lemma 2.2, there exists a function  $\tilde{u} \in H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with  $\tilde{u} = u$  on  $\Omega$  and  $\tilde{u} = 0$  on  $V^c$ . By Lemma 2.1 and 2.2,

(2.1) 
$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\tilde{u}(y+h) - e^{ih \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} \tilde{u}(y)|^2 dy \le C|h|^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{H^1_A(\mathbb{R}^N)}^2 \le C|h|^2 \|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)}^2,$$

for some positive constant C depending on  $\Omega$  and A. Then, in light of (2.1), we get

$$\begin{split} \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{\mathbf{i}(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho(x-y) \, dx dy &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \rho(h) \frac{|\tilde{u}(y+h) - e^{\mathbf{i}h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} \tilde{u}(y)|^2}{|h|^2} dy dh \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{\rho(h)}{|h|^2} \Big( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\tilde{u}(y+h) - e^{\mathbf{i}h \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} \tilde{u}(y)|^2 dy \Big) dh \\ &\leq C \|\rho\|_{L^1} \|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)}^2, \end{split}$$

which concludes the proof.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $A : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  be locally bounded and let  $u \in H^1_{0,A}(\Omega)$ . Then, we have

$$(1-s)\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}}\frac{|u(x)-e^{i(x-y)\cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)}u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}}dxdy \le C||u||^2_{H^1_A(\Omega)}$$

where C depends only on  $\Omega$  and A.

*Proof.* Given  $u \in C_c^{\infty}(\Omega)$ , by Lemma 2.1 we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u(y+h) - e^{ih \cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2 dy \le C|h|^2 ||u||^2_{H^1_A(\Omega)},$$

for some C > 0 depending on  $\Omega$  and A and all  $h \in \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $|h| \leq 1$ . Then, we get

$$\begin{split} &(1-s)\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}}\frac{|u(x)-e^{\mathrm{i}(x-y)\cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)}u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}}\,dxdy \leq (1-s)\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}}\frac{|u(y+h)-e^{\mathrm{i}h\cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)}u(y)|^2}{|h|^{N+2s}}dydh \\ &=(1-s)\int_{\{|h|\leq 1\}}\frac{1}{|h|^{N+2s}}\Big(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N}|u(y+h)-e^{\mathrm{i}h\cdot A\left(y+\frac{h}{2}\right)}u(y)|^2dy\Big)dh \\ &+4(1-s)\int_{\{|h|\geq 1\}}\frac{1}{|h|^{N+2s}}dh\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ &\leq (1-s)\int_{\{|h|\leq 1\}}\frac{1}{|h|^{N+2s-2}}dh\|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)}^2+C\|u\|_{L^2}^2\leq C\|u\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)}^2. \end{split}$$

The assertion then follows by a density argument.

Assuming now that  $A \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , we are able to give the following result.

**Theorem 2.5.** Assume that  $A \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Let  $u \in H^1_A(\Omega)$  and consider a sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of nonnegative radial functions in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with

(2.2) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^\infty \rho_n(r) r^{N-1} dx = 1,$$

and such that, for every  $\delta > 0$ ,

(2.3) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\delta}^{\infty} \rho_n(r) r^{N-1} dr = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^{\delta} \rho_n(r) r^N dr = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^{\delta} \rho_n(r) r^{N+1} dr = 0.$$

Then, we have

(2.4) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dx \, dy = 2K_N \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 \, dx$$
  
being  $K_N$  the constant introduced in (1.1).

*Proof.* We follow the main lines of the proof in [3]. Setting

$$F_n^u(x,y) := \frac{u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)}{|x-y|} \rho_n^{1/2}(x-y), \quad x, y \in \Omega, \ n \in \mathbb{N},$$

by virtue of Lemma 2.3, for all  $u, v \in H^1_A(\Omega)$ , recalling (2.2) we have

 $\left| \|F_n^u\|_{L^2(\Omega \times \Omega)} - \|F_n^v\|_{L^2(\Omega \times \Omega)} \right| \le \|F_n^u - F_n^v\|_{L^2(\Omega \times \Omega)} \le C \|u - v\|_{H^1_A(\Omega)},$ 

for some C > 0 depending on  $\Omega$  and A. This allows to prove (2.4) for  $u \in C^2(\overline{\Omega})$ . If we set

$$\varphi(y) := e^{\mathbf{i}(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)$$

since

$$\nabla_y \varphi(y) = e^{\mathrm{i}(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} \left( \nabla_y u(y) - \mathrm{i}A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) u(y) + \frac{\mathrm{i}}{2} u(y)(x-y) \cdot \nabla_y A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \right)$$

if  $x \in \Omega$ , a second order Taylor expansion gives (since  $u, A \in C^2$ , then  $\nabla_y^2 \varphi$  is bounded on  $\overline{\Omega}$ )

$$u(x) - e^{\mathrm{i}(x-y)\cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)}u(y) = \varphi(x) - \varphi(y) = (\nabla u(x) - \mathrm{i}A(x)u(x)) \cdot (x-y) + \mathcal{O}(|x-y|^2).$$

Hence, for any fixed  $x \in \Omega$ ,

(2.5) 
$$\frac{\left|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)}u(y)\right|}{|x-y|} = \left|\left(\nabla u(x) - iA(x)u(x)\right) \cdot \frac{x-y}{|x-y|}\right| + \mathcal{O}(|x-y|).$$

Fix  $x \in \Omega$ . If we set  $R_x := \operatorname{dist}(x, \partial \Omega)$ , integrating with respect to y, we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dy = \int_{B(x,R_x)} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dy$$

$$(2.6) \qquad \qquad + \int_{\Omega \setminus B(x,R_x)} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dy$$

The second integral goes to zero by the first limit of conditions (2.3), since

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\Omega \setminus B(x,R_x)} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dy \le C \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{B^c(0,R_x)} \rho_n(z) \, dz = 0.$$

Now, in light of (2.5), following [3] we compute

$$\begin{split} \int_{B(x,R_x)} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^2} \rho_n(x-y) \, dy &= Q_N |\nabla u(x) - iA(x)u(x)|^2 \int_0^{R_x} r^{N-1} \rho_n(r) dr \\ &+ \mathcal{O}\left(\int_0^{R_x} r^N \rho_n(r) dr\right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\int_0^{R_x} r^{N+1} \rho_n(r) dr\right), \end{split}$$

where we have set

$$Q_N = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{N-1}} |\omega \cdot \mathbf{e}|^2 d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\omega).$$

being  $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  a unit vector. Letting  $n \to \infty$  in (2.6), the result follows by dominated convergence.

## 3. Proofs of Theorem 1.1 and 1.2

3.1. **Proof of Theorem 1.1.** If  $r_{\Omega} := \operatorname{diam}(\Omega)$ , we consider a radial cut-off  $\psi \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $\psi(x) = \psi_0(|x|)$  with  $\psi_0(t) = 1$  for  $t < r_{\Omega}$  and  $\psi_0(t) = 0$  for  $t > 2r_{\Omega}$ . Then, by construction,  $\psi_0(|x - y|) = 1$ , for every  $x, y \in \Omega$ . Furthermore, let  $\{s_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset (0, 1)$  be a sequence with  $s_n \nearrow 1$  as  $n \to \infty$  and consider the sequence of radial functions in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ 

(3.1) 
$$\rho_n(|x|) = \frac{2(1-s_n)}{|x|^{N+2s_n-2}}\psi_0(|x|), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \ n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Notice that (2.2) holds, since

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^{r_\Omega} \rho_n(r) r^{N-1} dr = \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1-s_n) \int_0^{r_\Omega} \frac{1}{r^{2s_n-1}} dr = \lim_{n \to \infty} r_\Omega^{2-2s_n} = 1,$$

and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{r_{\Omega}}^{2r_{\Omega}} \rho_n(r) r^{N-1} dr = \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1-s_n) \int_{r_{\Omega}}^{2r_{\Omega}} \frac{\psi_0(r)}{t^{2s_n-1}} dr = 0.$$

In a similar fashion, for any  $\delta > 0$ , there holds

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\delta}^{\infty} \rho_n(r) r^{N-1} dr \le \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1-s_n) \int_{\delta}^{2r_{\Omega}} \frac{1}{t^{2s_n-1}} dt = 0,$$
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{0}^{\delta} \rho_n(r) r^N dr \le \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1-s_n) \int_{0}^{\delta} \frac{1}{t^{2s_n-2}} dt = 0,$$
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{0}^{\delta} \rho_n(r) r^{N+1} dr \le \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1-s_n) \int_{0}^{\delta} \frac{1}{t^{2s_n-3}} dt = 0.$$

Then Theorem 1.1 follows directly from Theorem 2.5 using  $\rho_n$  as defined in (3.1).

3.2. **Proof of Theorem 1.2.** In light of Theorem 1.1 and since u = 0 on  $\Omega^c$ , we have

$$\lim_{s \nearrow 1} (1-s) \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - e^{i(x-y) \cdot A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)} u(y)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dx dy = K_N \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - iA(x)u|^2 dx + \lim_{s \nearrow 1} R_s,$$

where we have set

$$R_s := 2(1-s) \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x-y|^{N+2s}} dx dy.$$

On the other hand, arguing as in the proof of [5, Proposition 2.8], we get  $R_s \to 0$  as  $s \nearrow 1$  when  $u \in C_c^{\infty}(\Omega)$ and, on account of Lemma 2.4, for general function in  $H^1_{0,A}(\Omega)$  by a density argument.

#### References

- G. Arioli, A. Szulkin, A semilinear Schrödinger equation in the presence of a magnetic field, Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. 170 (2003), 277–295. 1, 3
- [2] J. Avron, I. Herbst, B. Simon, Schrödinger operators with magnetic fields. I. General interactions, Duke Math. J. 45 (1978), 847–883. 1
- [3] J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, P. Mironescu, Another look at Sobolev spaces, in Optimal Control and Partial Differential Equations. A Volume in Honor of Professor Alain Bensoussan's 60th Birthday (eds. J. L. Menaldi, E. Rofman and A. Sulem), IOS Press, Amsterdam, 2001, 439–455. 1, 4, 5
- [4] J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, P. Mironescu, Limiting embedding theorems for W<sup>s,p</sup> when s ↑ 1 and applications, J. Anal. Math. 87 (2002), 77–101. 1
- [5] L. Brasco, E. Parini, M. Squassina, Stability of variational eigenvalues for the fractional p-Laplacian, Discrete Contin. Dyn. Syst. A 36 (2016), 1813–1845.
- [6] P. d'Avenia, M. Squassina, Ground states for fractional magnetic operators, preprint, http://arxiv.org/abs/1601. 04230 1
- [7] L.C. Evans, Partial Differential Equations: Second Edition Graduate Series in Mathematics, AMS, 2010. 3
- [8] R.L. Frank, E.H. Lieb, R. Seiringer, Hardy-Lieb-Thirring inequalities for fractional Schrödinger operators, J. Amer. Math. Soc. 21 (2008), 925–950. 1
- [9] T. Ichinose, Magnetic relativistic Schrödinger operators and imaginary-time path integrals, Mathematical physics, spectral theory and stochastic analysis, 247–297, Oper. Theory Adv. Appl. 232, Birkhäuser/Springer Basel AG, Basel, 2013.
   1
- [10] V. Maz'ya and T. Shaposhnikova, On the Bourgain, Brezis, and Mironescu theorem concerning limiting embeddings of fractional Sobolev spaces, J. Funct. Anal. 195 (2002), 230–238. 1
- [11] M. Reed, B. Simon, Methods of modern mathematical physics, I, Functional analysis, Academic Press, Inc., New York, 1980 1

(Marco Squassina) DIPARTIMENTO DI INFORMATICA UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA STRADA LE GRAZIE 15, I-37134 VERONA, ITALY *E-mail address:* marco.squassina@univr.it

(Bruno Volzone) DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI PARTHENOPE CENTRO DIREZIONALE ISOLA C/4 80143 NAPOLI, ITALY *E-mail address:* bruno.volzone@uniparthenope.it