# THE OBSTACLE PROBLEM FOR THE INFINITY FRACTIONAL LAPLACIAN

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ABSTRACT. Given g an  $\alpha$ -Hölder continuous function defined on the boundary of a bounded domain  $\Omega$  and given  $\psi$  a continuous obstacle defined in  $\overline{\Omega}$ , in this article, we find u an  $\alpha$ -Hölder extension of g in  $\Omega$ with  $u \geq \psi$ . This function u minimizes the  $\alpha$ -Hölder semi-norm of all possible extensions with these properties and it is a viscosity solution of the associated obstacle problem for the infinity fractional Laplace operator.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\Omega$  be an open, bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . In this paper we will consider the infinite fractional Laplace operator given by

$$Lu(x) = \sup_{y \in \overline{\Omega}, y \neq x} \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} + \inf_{y \in \overline{\Omega}, y \neq x} \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|y - x|^{\alpha}}, \text{ for } x \in \Omega.$$

Motivated by the results of Chambolle, Lindgren and Monneau (see [6]), we will be interested in solutions of the associated Dirichlet obstacle problem. Concretely, given an  $\alpha$ -Hölder function g defined on  $\partial\Omega$  and a continuous obstacle  $\psi$  defined on  $\overline{\Omega}$ , we aim to prove the existence and uniqueness of at least a super infinity fractional harmonic function constrained to lie above the obstacle and to take the datum on  $\partial\Omega$ . More precisely, we consider the following obstacle problem

(1) 
$$\begin{cases} -Lu(x) = 0, & \text{in } \{x \in \Omega : u(x) > \psi(x)\}, \\ -Lu(x) \ge 0, & \text{in } \{x \in \Omega : u(x) = \psi(x)\}, \\ u(x) \ge \psi(x), & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ u(x) = g(x), & \text{if } x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

and we will study the existence and uniqueness of a viscosity solution that seems to be natural in this framework.

By a viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of (1) we mean an upper semicontinuous (resp. lower semicontinuous) function u from  $\overline{\Omega}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  satisfying that  $u \leq g$  (resp.  $u \geq g$ ) on  $\partial\Omega$  and the following property:  $\forall \varphi \in C^1(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that

$$u \leq \varphi$$
, in  $\overline{\Omega}$  (resp.  $u \geq \varphi$ ),

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$$u(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$$
, for some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,

then

$$\min\{-L\varphi(x_0),\varphi(x_0)-\psi(x_0)\} \le 0 \,(\text{ resp. } \ge 0)$$

A viscosity solution is a function which is both a subsolution and a supersolution.

We observe that, if u is a continuous function defined on  $\overline{\Omega}$  satisfying u = gon  $\partial\Omega$ , then we easily deduce, from the above definition, the following characterization of viscosity sub and super solution. Concretely, u is a viscosity subsolution of (1) if for any  $\varphi \in C^1(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that

$$u \le \varphi$$
, in  $\Omega$ ,  
 $\psi(x_0) < u(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$ , for some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,

then

$$-L\varphi(x_0) \leq 0$$
.

On the other hand, u is a viscosity supersolution of (1) if for any  $\varphi \in C^1(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that

$$u \ge \varphi$$
, in  $\Omega$ ,  
 $u(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$ , for some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,

then

$$-L\varphi(x_0) \ge 0$$
 and  $u(x_0) \ge \psi(x_0)$ .

It is interesting to note that the obstacle function  $\psi$  is always a viscosity subsolution of (1). See [11] for more information about viscosity solutions.

We also emphasize that in order to have a solution of our obstacle problem (1), it is necessary (due to the boundary conditions) that

(2) 
$$\psi(x) \le g(x), \ \forall x \in \partial\Omega,$$

holds true.

Problem (1) involves a boundary problem in the fractional setting. This kink of problems have been studied extensively, see for instance [7] and [8]. Specifically, Problem (1) involves the infinity fractional Laplace operator The infinity Laplace operator was considered widely in the literature in the local case, see [1], [2], [5], [12] [14], and [15]; as well as in the nonlocal case (especially fractional), see for instance [4], [6] and [10]. Moreover, in [4], [12] and [15] it is studied the existence of a solution for some obstacle problems. On one hand, in [12], the authors consider the (local) infinity Laplace operator. In particular, they propose a game which involves an obstacle function and they prove that certain limit of some specific values functions is a viscosity solution of the obstacle problem for the infinity Laplacian. On the other side, in [4], the authors consider a nonlocal tug of war game. Motivated by [14] the authors consider here a nonlocal version of the game.

Recently, in [6], given an  $\alpha$ -Hölder continuous function g defined on  $\partial\Omega$ , it is obtained a viscosity solution for the Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} -Lu(x) = 0, & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ u(x) = g(x), & \text{if } x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where L is the infinity fractional Laplace operator defined before. Our aim is to extend these results considering the study of the obstacle problem (1).

Specifically, if we will denote the  $\alpha$ -Hölder semi-norm of a function u defined on  $\Omega$  by <sup>1</sup>

$$[u]_{\alpha} = \sup_{x,y \in \Omega, \, x \neq y} \frac{|u(y) - u(x)|}{|y - x|^{\alpha}}$$

our main results are the following theorems.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open, bounded domain of  $\mathbb{I}\!\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $g \in C(\partial\Omega)$  and  $\psi \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that (2) holds true. Then there exists at most a viscosity solution u of the obstacle problem (1).

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open, bounded and Lipschitz domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\alpha \in (0,1)$ . If  $g \in C^{0,\alpha}(\partial\Omega)$  and  $\psi \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  satisfy (2), then there exists a unique viscosity solution u of the obstacle problem (1) which belongs to  $C^{0,\alpha}(\overline{\Omega})$ . Moreover, the solution u is the best  $\alpha$ -Hölder continuous extension of the datum g which lies above the obstacle  $\psi$ , in the sense that

$$[u]_{\alpha} \le [z]_{\alpha} \,,$$

for any arbitrary  $\alpha$ -Hölder extension z of the datum g which satisfies  $z \geq \psi$ .

Following the arguments of [6], a possible approach to study our problem (1) is to approximate our infinity Laplace operator L with a sequence of approximate operators (see Section 2 below). In this sense, in what follows, given p > N,  $\frac{N}{p} < \alpha < 1$  and  $s := \alpha - \frac{N}{p}$ , we consider the fractional Sobolev space  $W^{s,p}(\Omega)$  defined by

$$W^{s,p}(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in L^p(\Omega) : \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{|u(y) - u(x)|}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} \right)^p \, dy dx < +\infty \right\} \,,$$

and we recall that  $(W^{s,p}(\Omega), ||.||_{s,p})$  is a Banach space, where

$$||u||_{s,p} = \left(\int_{\Omega} |u|^p + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{|u(y) - u(x)|}{|y - x|^{\alpha}}\right)^p dy dx\right)^{1/p}, \quad u \in W^{s,p}(\Omega).$$
We define the functional  $F : W^{s,p}(\Omega) \to \mathbb{R}$  by

We define the functional  $E_p: W^{s,p}(\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

(3) 
$$E_p(u) = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{|u(y) - u(x)|}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} \right)^p dy dx,$$

and we study the minimization problem in a specific set. Observe that the operator of the Euler Lagrange equation associated to this functional is

(4) 
$$L_p u(x) = \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{|u(y) - u(x)|}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} \right)^{p-1} \frac{\operatorname{sig}(u(y) - u(x))}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} \, dy \,,$$

where  $\operatorname{sig}(x) = \frac{x}{|x|}$  for  $x \neq 0$ . At least formally, we emphasize that the operator  $(L_p(u))^{1/(p-1)}$  should tend to our infinity fractional Laplace operator L when p goes to  $\infty$ . We remark that this formal limit procedure only works when the right hand side is zero (when it is not zero one may expect a different limit equation). This will be the key point in our approach. We want to prove that the unique minimum (belonging to a suitable set)  $u_p$  of  $E_p$  is a viscosity solution of the obstacle problem associated to the operator  $L_p$ . Afterwards, we want to pass to the limit when p tends to infinity. We

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Recall that  $(C^{0,\alpha}(\Omega), ||.||_{\infty} + [.]_{\alpha})$  is a Banach Space

will prove that the limit of the sequence  $u_p$  of approximate solutions is a viscosity solution of (1).

The article is organized as follows: in Section 2, we study the properties of the approximate obstacle problems (associated to the approximate operators  $L_p$ ) and in Section 3, we prove our main results.

#### 2. Approximate problems

We consider the approximate operators  $L_p$  given by (4) and we study in this section the approximate obstacle problems

(5) 
$$\begin{cases} -L_p u(x) = 0, & \text{in } \{x \in \Omega : u(x) > \psi(x)\}, \\ -L_p u(x) \ge 0, & \text{in } \{x \in \Omega : u(x) = \psi(x)\}, \\ u(x) \ge \psi(x), & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ u(x) = g(x), & \text{if } x \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

In the next lemmas, we prove that the functional  $E_p$  given by (3) has a unique minimum (in a specific set) which is a viscosity solution of the approximate obstacle problem (5).

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open, bounded and Lipschitz domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\alpha \in (0,1)$ ,  $p > \frac{2N}{\alpha}$ . If  $g \in C^{0,\alpha}(\partial\Omega)$ ,  $\psi \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  and (2) holds, then the functional  $E_p$  given by (3) takes a unique minimum  $u_p$  in the set

$$X_{g,\psi} = \{ v \in W^{s,p}(\Omega) : v \ge \psi \ en \ \overline{\Omega} \,, \, v = g \ en \ \partial\Omega \} \,.$$

Moreover,  $u_p$  belongs to  $C(\overline{\Omega})$ .

*Proof.* Firstly we observe that, any  $\alpha$ -Hölder extension of g which lies above the obstacle  $\psi$  belongs to the set  $X_{g,\psi}$ . Thus, this set is not empty (see [15, Proposition 3.3] for the existence of this extension). In addition, if we take  $u \in X_{g,\psi}$  and we fix  $k \ge ||\psi||_{\infty} + ||g||_{\infty}$ , then  $T_k(u) \in X_{g,\psi}$  and

$$E_p(u) \ge E_p(T_k(u)),$$

where the function  $T_k : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by

$$T_k(s) = \begin{cases} -k, & \text{si } s < -k \\ s, & \text{si } |s| \le k, \\ k, & \text{si } s > k. \end{cases}$$

As a consequence, we have that

$$\min_{X_{g,\psi}} E_p(u) = \min_{X_{g,\psi}^k} E_p(u) \,,$$

where

$$X_{g,\psi}^k = \{ u \in X_{g,\psi} : ||u||_{\infty} \le k \}.$$

Since the set  $X_{g,\psi}^k$  is weakly closed (with the weak topology of  $W^{s,p}(\Omega)$ ), to prove the existence of a minimum in this set, we will study the coercivity and the weak lower semicontinuity of the functional  $E_p$ .

On the one hand, we take a sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset X_{g,\psi}^k$  such that  $||u_n||_{s,p} \to +\infty$ . Since  $||u_n||_{\infty} \leq k$ , this necessarily means that  $E_p(u_n) \to +\infty$ . That is, our functional is coercive.

On the other hand, we take a sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset X_{g,\psi}^k$  such that  $u_n$  weakly converges to a function u in  $W^{s,p}(\Omega)$ . Since  $W^{s,p}(\Omega)$  is compactly embedded in  $L^p(\Omega)$  (see [9, Corollary 1.2]) and the norm  $||.||_{s,p}$  is a w.l.s.c. function, then

$$\liminf E_p(u_n) \ge E_p(u)$$

as we desired.

Consequently, the functional  $E_p$  has a minimum  $u_p$  in the set  $X_{g,\psi}$  and again by [9, Theorem 8.2],  $u_p \in C(\overline{\Omega})$ . Moreover, since the functional is convex, this minimum is unique.

**Lemma 2.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open, bounded and Lipschitz domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $g \in C^{0,\alpha}(\partial\Omega)$  and  $\psi \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  satisfying (2). If  $p > 2N/\alpha$ , then the minimum  $u_p$  (given by Lemma 1) is a viscosity solution of (5).

*Proof.* Firstly, recall that the minimum  $u_p$  (given by Lemma 1) belongs to  $C(\overline{\Omega})$  and satisfies  $u_p = g$  on  $\partial\Omega$  and  $u_p \ge \psi$  in  $\overline{\Omega}$ . We will prove that  $u_p$  is a viscosity sub and super solution. On the one hand, we claim that  $u_p$  is a viscosity subsolution of (5). Indeed, we take  $\varphi \in C^1(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that

$$u_p \leq \varphi$$
, in  $\overline{\Omega}$ ,

$$\psi(x_0) < u_p(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$$
, for some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,

and we prove  $-L\varphi(x_0) \leq 0$ . Without loss of generality, we suppose that  $\varphi$  touches  $u_p$  only at the point  $x_0$ ; otherwise it is sufficient to replace  $\varphi$  by  $\varphi(x) + \delta |x - x_0|^2$  with  $\delta$  small enough. We define the functions

$$\varphi^{\epsilon} = \max(u_p, \varphi - \epsilon)$$

and

$$\varphi_{\epsilon} = \min(u_p, \varphi - \epsilon).$$

Since, we suppose that  $\varphi(x_0) = u_p(x_0) > \psi(x_0)$ , for  $\epsilon$  small enough,  $\varphi_{\epsilon} \ge \psi$ in  $\Omega$  and moreover,  $\varphi_{\epsilon} = u_p$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . Hence,  $\varphi_{\epsilon}$  belongs to  $X_{g,\psi}$  and using that  $u_p$  is a minimum of  $E_p$  in this set, we have

$$E_p(\varphi_\epsilon) \ge E_p(u_p)$$
.

From this inequality and using the following convexity inequality (see [6, Lemma 6.2])

 $|\max(a, c) - \max(b, d)|^{p} + |\min(a, c) - \min(b, d)|^{p} \le |a - b|^{p} + |c - d|^{p},$ 

for all  $p \geq 1$ , we deduce that

$$E_p(\varphi_{\epsilon}) + E_p(\varphi^{\epsilon}) \le E_p(u_p) + E_p(\varphi) \le E_p(\varphi_{\epsilon}) + E_p(\varphi),$$

that is

$$E_p(\varphi^{\epsilon}) \le E_p(\varphi)$$
.

The convexity of  $E_p$  implies

$$E_p((1-t)\varphi + t\varphi^{\epsilon}) \le (1-t)E_p(\varphi) + tE_p(\varphi^{\epsilon}) \le E_p(\varphi),$$

and then we have

$$\frac{E_p((1-t)\varphi + t\varphi^{\epsilon}) - E_p(\varphi)}{t} \le 0.$$

Let call

$$f(t) = E_p((1-t)\varphi + t\varphi^{\epsilon}).$$

From the above inequality and using the convexity of the function f, we have

$$f'(0) \le \frac{f(t) - f(0)}{t} \le 0$$
,

and then

$$p \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} H(x, y) \, dy dx \le 0$$
,

where

$$H(x,y) = \left|\frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)}{|y - x|^{\alpha}}\right|^{p-1} \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\varphi(y) - \varphi(x))}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} (\varphi^{\epsilon}(y) - \varphi(y) + \epsilon - \varphi^{\epsilon}(x) + \varphi(x) - \epsilon) \,.$$

Therefore, a change of variable implies

$$\int_{\Omega} (\varphi^{\epsilon} - \varphi + \epsilon)(x) (-L_p \varphi(x)) \, dx \le 0 \, .$$

Now we argue by contradiction. Suppose that  $-L_p\varphi(x_0) > 0$ . By continuity, which holds under our assumptions, there is a small ball  $B_r(x_0)$  such that  $-L_p \varphi > 0$  in  $B_r(x_0)$ . Since  $\varphi^{\epsilon} = \max(u_p, \varphi - \epsilon)$ , for  $\epsilon$  small enough, we have supp $(\varphi^{\epsilon} - \varphi + \epsilon) \subset B_r(x_0)$ . We also observe that  $\varphi^{\epsilon} - \varphi + \epsilon \geq 0$ . Consequently, we deduce

$$0 < \int_{B_r(x_0)} (\varphi^{\epsilon} - \varphi + \epsilon)(x) (-L_p \varphi(x)) \, dx \le 0 \,,$$

which is a contradiction.

In the same way, one can prove that u is a viscosity supersolution. 

### 3. PROOFS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

Proof of Theorem 1. Suppose that u and v are two viscosity solutions of the obstacle problem (1) and define the set

$$W = \{x \in \Omega : u(x) > v(x)\}$$

We claim that W is an empty set. Indeed, arguing by contradiction, we suppose that W is not empty. Since  $v \ge \psi$  in  $\Omega$ , we have  $v \ge \psi$  and  $u > \psi$ in W. Consequently, the functions u and v satisfy

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -Lu = 0 & \text{in } W, \\ u = u & \text{on } \partial W, \end{array} \right. \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -Lv \ge 0 & \text{in } W, \\ v = u & \text{on } \partial W, \end{array} \right.$$

which implies, using the comparison principle [6, Proposition 11.2], that v > u in W. This is a contradiction and the claim is proved. Reversing the role of u and v gives that u = v which conclude the proof.  $\square$ 

To prove Theorem 2 we need the following technical result.

**Lemma 3.** [6, Lemma 6.5] For  $\varphi \in C^1(\Omega)$ ,  $p \ge 1$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , we define

$$f_p(y) = \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_p)}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha}} \qquad and \qquad f(y) = \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_0)}{|y - x_0|^{\alpha}},$$

where  $x_p \longrightarrow x_0 \in \Omega$  as  $p \longrightarrow \infty$ . Then, . . .

$$\lim_{p \to \infty} \left\| \frac{f_p^+(y)}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha/p}} \right\|_{L^p(\Omega)} = \left\| \left| f^+ \right| \right|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)},$$

. . .

with  $f^{\pm}(x) = \max(\pm f(x), 0)$ . The same also holds for  $f_p^-$ .

Proof of Theorem 2. Let  $\{u_p\}$  be a sequence of viscosity solutions  $u_p$  of (5) given by Lemma 1. Our aim is to pass to the limit when p goes to infinite. Firstly, given  $\alpha \in (0,1)$ , we prove that the sequence  $\{u_p\}$  is bounded in  $W^{s,q}(\Omega)$  for any  $q > 2N/\alpha$ . Indeed, by construction, there is a positive constant k such that

$$||u_p||_{\infty} \leq k, \ \forall p.$$

Now, we take any  $p > 2N/\alpha$  and we fix a number q such that  $2N/\alpha < q < p$ . Let z be a Hölder extension of g such that  $z \ge \psi$  (see [15, Proposition 3.3]). Since the functional  $E_p$  takes a unique minimum  $u_p$  in the set  $X_{g,\psi}$ , then

$$E_p(u_p) \le E_p(z) \le |\Omega|^2 [z]^p_\alpha,$$

and by Hölder inequality

(6) 
$$E_q(u_p) \le E_p(u_p)^{\frac{q}{p}} |\Omega|^{\frac{2(p-q)}{p}} \le |\Omega|^2 [z]_{\alpha}^q,$$

which implies that the sequence  $\{u_p\}$  is bounded in  $W^{s,q}(\Omega)$ . By the Sobolev embedding (see [9, Theorem 8.2]) we deduce that, up to a subsequence,  $u_p$ strongly converges to a function u in  $C(\overline{\Omega})$ . Moreover, since  $u_p = g$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , and  $u_p \geq \psi$  in  $\Omega$ , then we also have that the function u satisfies

$$u=g\,,\,\,{
m on}\,\,\partial\Omega\,,\,\,\,u\geq\psi\,,\,\,{
m in}\,\,\Omega\,.$$

Now, we will prove that u is a viscosity sub and super solution of problem (1). On the one hand, we claim that u is a viscosity subsolution. Indeed, we take  $\varphi \in C^1(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that

$$u \leq \varphi$$
, in  $\overline{\Omega}$ ,

$$\psi(x_0) < u(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$$
, for some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,

and, without loss of generality, we suppose that  $\varphi$  touches u only at the point  $x_0$  ( $x_0$  is a strict maximum of  $u - \varphi$ ). Hence,

$$M_p := \sup_{\overline{\Omega}} (u_p - \varphi) = (u_p - \varphi)(x_p),$$

where

$$x_p \mapsto x_0, \quad M_p \mapsto 0.$$

Moreover, since  $\varphi(x_0) > \psi(x_0)$ , we can suppose that  $\varphi(x_p) > \psi(x_p)$  for p large enough. This shows that

$$\begin{cases} u_p \le \varphi_p := \varphi + M_p, \\ \psi(x_p) < u_p(x_p) = \varphi(x_p). \end{cases}$$

The fact that  $u_p$  is a viscosity solution implies

$$0 \ge -L_p \varphi_p(x_p) = -L_p \varphi(x_p),$$

that is,

$$0 \ge -\int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_p)}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha}} \right|^{p-1} \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_p))}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha}} \, dy \,,$$

or equivalently,

$$\left\| \left( \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_p)}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha + \frac{\alpha}{p-1}}} \right)^+ \right\|_{L^{p-1}(\Omega)} \ge \left\| \left( \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_p)}{|y - x_p|^{\alpha + \frac{\alpha}{p-1}}} \right)^- \right\|_{L^{p-1}(\Omega)}$$

Thanks to Lemma 3, we can pass to the limit in this inequality to obtain

$$\sup_{y\in\Omega} \left( \max\left(\frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_0)}{|y - x_0|^{\alpha}}, 0\right) \right) + \inf_{y\in\Omega} \left( \min\left(\frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_0)}{|y - x_0|^{\alpha}}, 0\right) \right) \ge 0.$$

Since  $\varphi$  is  $C^1$  at  $x_0$ , it is clear that  $L^+\varphi(x_0) \ge 0$  and  $L^-\varphi(x_0) \le 0$ , where

$$L^+\varphi(x_0) = \sup_{y \in \Omega, \ y \neq x_0} \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_0)}{|y - x_0|^{\alpha}}, \quad L^-\varphi(x_0) = \inf_{y \in \Omega, \ y \neq x_0} \frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x_0)}{|y - x_0|^{\alpha}}.$$

Summing up, we deduce

$$-L\varphi(x_0) \le 0\,,$$

as we desired.

Finally, in the same way, one can proved that u is a viscosity super solution. Therefore, u is a viscosity solution of the obstacle problem (1).

To conclude, we characterize the function limit u. In order to do it, let z be any Hölder extension of g such that  $z \ge \psi$ . By (6), we have

$$E_q(u_p) \le |\Omega|^2 [z]^q_{\alpha}$$

which implies, passing to the limit as p goes to  $\infty$ ,

$$(E_q(u))^{1/q} \le |\Omega|^{2/q} [z]_{\alpha}$$

As a consequence, when q tends to  $\infty$ , we obtain

$$\left| \left| \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|y - x|^{\alpha}} \right| \right|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega \times \Omega)} \leq [z]_{\alpha},$$

i.e., we have proved that  $u \in C^{0,\alpha}(\overline{\Omega})$  and moreover

$$[u]_{\alpha} \leq [z]_{\alpha} \,,$$

for any arbitrary Hölder extension z of the datum g which satisfies  $z \ge \psi$ , as we desired.

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