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# Hardy-Sobolev type inequalities for generalized Baouendi-Grushin operators

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## HARDY-SOBOLEV TYPE INEQUALITIES FOR GENERALIZED BAOUENDI-GRUSHIN OPERATORS

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*Abstract.* In this paper we establish a class of Hardy–Sobolev type inequalities related to generalized Baouendi–Grushin operators. Our results contain the well-known Hardy type inequality and Sobolev type inequality for the class of operators. Furthermore, some new inequalities are obtained.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

In [6], a Hardy type inequality for the generalized Baouendi–Grushin vector fields

$$Z_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, \quad Z_{n+j} = |x|^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial y_j}, \quad (1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m)$$

where  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ , is given by

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{u^2}{d^{2\alpha}} \psi_{2\alpha} dx dy \leq \left( \frac{2}{Q-2} \right)^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy, \quad (1.1)$$

for  $u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \psi_{2\alpha} dx dy)$  and  $|\nabla_L u| \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$ , with  $\nabla_L = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n, Z_{n+1}, \dots, Z_{n+m})$ . Using (1.1), a unique continuation for the generalized Baouendi–Grushin operator

$$\mathfrak{L}_\alpha = \Delta_x + |x|^{2\alpha} \Delta_y = \sum_{i=1}^{n+m} Z_i = \nabla_L \cdot \nabla_L$$

was proved. The proof of (1.1) used representation formulae of functions by the fundamental solution of  $\mathfrak{L}_\alpha$  at the origin.

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The general version of (1.1) was established with a different approach in [10]. For any open subset  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ , D'Ambrosio obtained also the following Hardy type inequalities in [3]:

Let  $p > 1$ ,  $n, m \geq 1$ , and  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $n + (1 + \alpha)m > \gamma - \beta - p$  and  $n > \alpha p - \beta$ . Then, for every  $u \in D^{1,p}(\Omega, |x|^{\beta-\alpha p} d^{(1+\alpha)p-\gamma})$  it follows

$$c_{Q,p,\beta,\gamma}^p \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \frac{|x|^\beta}{d^\gamma} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p |x|^{\beta-\alpha p} d^{(1+\alpha)p-\gamma} dx dy, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $c_{Q,p,\beta,\gamma} = \frac{Q+\beta-\gamma}{p}$ . If  $(0,0) \in \Omega$ , then the constant (1.2)  $c_{Q,p,\beta,\gamma}^p$  is sharp.

Recently, a Sobolev type inequality for the vector fields  $Z_1, \dots, Z_{n+m}$  (see [7]) states

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |u|^{2^*} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2^*}} \leq S \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (1.3)$$

where  $S$  is a positive constant,  $2^* = \frac{2Q}{Q-2}$ ,  $Q = n + (\alpha + 1)m$  is the homogeneous dimension with respect to the dilations

$$\delta_\lambda(x, y) = (\lambda x, \lambda^{\alpha+1} y), \quad \lambda > 0, (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \quad (1.4)$$

which is induced by  $\mathfrak{L}_\alpha$ . Inequality (1.3) contains the result for  $\alpha = 1$  in [2].

We define the following distance from the origin on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$

$$d(x, y) = \left( |x|^{2(\alpha+1)} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2(\alpha+1)}}.$$

It is easy to check that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_L d &= \frac{|x|^\alpha}{d^{2\alpha+1}} (|x|^\alpha x_1, |x|^\alpha x_2, \dots, |x|^\alpha x_n, \\ &\quad (\alpha+1)y_1, (\alpha+1)y_2, \dots, (\alpha+1)y_m), \\ |\nabla_L d|^2 &= \frac{|x|^{2\alpha}}{d^{2\alpha}} = \psi_{2\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $C_0^k(\Omega)$  be the set of functions with compact in  $C^k(\Omega)$  and  $1 < p < \infty$ . We denote by  $D^{1,p}(\Omega)$  the closure of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  under the norm  $(\int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p d\xi)^{1/p}$ .

In this paper we will establish a class of Hardy-Sobolev type inequalities related to generalized Baouendi-Grushin operators. Our results contain the well-known Hardy type inequality and Sobolev type inequality for the class of operators.

This paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we prove a Hardy-Sobolev type inequality for  $\mathfrak{L}_\alpha$ . This generalizes the inequalities in the Euclidean space in [1]. In Section 3, we give some new Hardy type inequalities on bounded domains. Our results include those of [3].

## 2. HARDY-SOBOLEV INEQUALITIES

In this section, set  $(x, y) = (x', y', x'', y'') = (z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  with  $z_1 = (x', y') \in \mathbb{R}^{k+l}$ ,  $z_2 = (x'', y'') \in \mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq m$ , and

$$d_1 = d(x', y') = (|x'|^{2(\alpha+1)} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2)^{\frac{1}{2(\alpha+1)}}.$$

We denote by  $B'_R(R) = \{(x', y') \in \mathbb{R}^{k+l} \mid d_1 < R\}$  the open ball centered at  $(0, 0)$  with radius  $R > 0$ , and put  $\nabla_{L'} = (Z_1, \dots, Z_k, Z_{n+1}, \dots, Z_{n+l})$ .

We note that the polar coordinate transformation defined in [5, 8] implies

$$dz_1 = dx' dy' = \rho^{k+(\alpha+1)l-1} d\rho d\sigma_1, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $d\sigma_1 = \left(\frac{1}{\alpha+1}\right)^l |\sin \theta|^{\frac{k}{\alpha+1}-1} |\cos \theta|^{l-1} d\theta d\omega_k d\omega_l$ , and  $\omega_k$  and  $\omega_l$  are the Lebesgue measures of the unitary Euclidean spheres in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  and  $\mathbb{R}^l$ , respectively.

The main inequalities in this section are the following.

**Theorem 1** (Hardy-Sobolev type inequalities). *Let us assume that  $s$  satisfies the relations  $0 \leq s \leq 2 < k + (\alpha+1)l \leq Q$ , and put*

$$2_*(s) = \frac{2(Q-s)}{Q-2}.$$

*Then there exists a positive constant  $C(s, \alpha, k, l)$  such that for every  $u \in D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{d_1^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2_*(s)}}{d_1^{2_*(s)}} dx dy \leq C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{Q-s}{Q-2}}, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$  is the completion of  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$  under the norm

$$\|u\| = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

*Remark 1.* If  $s = 0$ ,  $k = n$ ,  $l = m$ , then (2.2) is (1.3); if  $s = 2$ ,  $k = n$ ,  $l = m$ , then (2.2) is (1.1).

We prove first a lemma, which gives a representation formula of functions only depending on vector fields  $(Z_1, \dots, Z_{n+m})$  and dilation of  $\mathfrak{L}_\alpha$ . It establishes the connection between the function  $u$  and its generalized gradient  $\nabla_L u$ .

**Lemma 1.** *For any  $u(x, y) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$ , we have*

$$u(x, y) = - \int_1^\infty \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_L u, \nabla_L \left( \frac{d^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle \right] \circ \delta_\lambda d\lambda. \quad (2.3)$$

*Proof.* Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_L (d^{2(\alpha+1)}) &= 2(\alpha+1) d^{2\alpha+1} \nabla_L d = 2(\alpha+1) |x|^\alpha \\ &(|x|^\alpha x_1, |x|^\alpha x_2, \dots, |x|^\alpha x_n, (\alpha+1)y_1, (\alpha+1)y_2, \dots, (\alpha+1)y_m). \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

By (1.4) and (2.4), one has

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d\lambda} u \circ \delta_\lambda &= \frac{du(\delta_\lambda(x, y))}{d\lambda} \\
&= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \circ \delta_\lambda(x, y) + (\alpha + 1) \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda^\alpha y_j \frac{\partial u}{\partial y_j} \circ \delta_\lambda(x, y) \right] \\
&= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\lambda} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} + (\alpha + 1) \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{y_j}{\lambda} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y_j} \right] \circ \delta_\lambda(x, y) \\
&= \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|^{2\alpha}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x|^{2\alpha} x_i \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} + (\alpha + 1) \sum_{j=1}^m |x|^{2\alpha} y_j \frac{\partial u}{\partial y_j} \right) \right] \circ \delta_\lambda(x, y) \\
&= \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_L u, \nabla_L \left( \frac{d^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle \right] \circ \delta_\lambda(x, y). \tag{2.5}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x, y) &= - \int_1^\infty \frac{d}{d\lambda} (u(\delta_\lambda(x, y))) d\lambda \\
&= - \int_1^\infty \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_L u, \nabla_L \left( \frac{d^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle \right] \circ \delta_\lambda d\lambda,
\end{aligned}$$

as required.  $\square$

*Remark 2.* We note that  $\nabla_L(d^{2(\alpha+1)}) = 2(\alpha+1)d^{2\alpha+1}\nabla_L d$  in the proof above, and so

$$\begin{aligned}
|\nabla_L(d^{2(\alpha+1)})|^2 &= 2[(\alpha+1)d^{2\alpha+1}]^2 |\nabla_L d|^2 \\
&= [2(\alpha+1)]^2 |x|^{2\alpha} d^{2(\alpha+1)}. \tag{2.6}
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* We need only to consider the cases where  $u \geq 0$  and  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$ . Introduce the notation  $S_1 = \partial B'_1 = \{(x', y') \in \mathbb{R}^{k+l} \mid (x', y') = 1\}$  and  $\vartheta = (\tau_1, \tau_2) = (\tau_{11}, \dots, \tau_{1k}, \tau_{21}, \dots, \tau_{2k}) \in S_1$ . We introduce the transformation

$$z_1 = (x', y') = (\rho, \vartheta),$$

where  $\rho = d_1$ ,  $\vartheta = (\tau_1, \tau_2) = \delta_{\frac{1}{\rho}}(x', y')$ . By Lemma 1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2^*}}{\rho^s} dx dy &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2^*}}{\rho^s} dz_1 \\ &= - \int_1^\infty d\lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \left[ \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} \frac{1}{\lambda |x'|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_{L'} u^{2^*}, \nabla_{L'} \left( \frac{\rho^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle \right] \circ \delta_\lambda(x', y') dz_1. \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Putting

$$F = \frac{1}{|x'|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_{L'} u^{2^*}, \nabla_{L'} \left( \frac{\rho^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle,$$

we obtain from (2.1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2^*}}{\rho^s} dx dy & \quad (2.8) \\ &= - \int_1^\infty d\lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} \frac{F}{\lambda} \circ \delta_\lambda(x', y') dz_1 \\ &= - \int_1^\infty d\lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \int_{S_1} d\sigma_1 \int_0^\infty \frac{\rho^{s\alpha} |\tau_1|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} \frac{F}{\lambda} \circ \delta_{\lambda\rho}(\vartheta) \rho^{k+(\alpha+1)l-1} d\rho \\ &= - \int_1^\infty \lambda^{-(k+(\alpha+1)l-1-s)-2} d\lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \\ &\quad \times \int_{S_1} d\sigma_1 \int_0^\infty |\tau_1|^{s\alpha} F \circ \delta_r(\vartheta) r^{k+(\alpha+1)l-1-s} dr \quad (\lambda\rho = r) \\ &= - \frac{1}{k+(\alpha+1)l-s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} F dz_1 \\ &= - \frac{1}{k+(\alpha+1)l-s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} \left[ \frac{1}{|x'|^{2\alpha}} \left\langle \nabla_{L'} u^{2^*}, \nabla_{L'} \left( \frac{\rho^{2(\alpha+1)}}{2(\alpha+1)} \right) \right\rangle \right] dz_1. \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

Now we consider the cases  $1 \leq s \leq 2$  and  $0 < s < 1$ , respectively.

Case 1:  $1 \leq s \leq 2$ . If  $1 < s < 2$ , then (2.6), (2.9) and Hölder's inequality yield

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2_*}}{\rho^s} dx dy \\
& \leq \frac{1}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha-2\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^{2_*} \frac{|\nabla_{L'} (\rho^{2(\alpha+1)})|}{2(\alpha+1)} dz_1 \\
& = \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha-2\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha+s}} u^{2_*-1} |\nabla_{L'} u| |x'|^\alpha \rho^{\alpha+1} dx dy \\
& = \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{\alpha(s-1)}}{\rho^{\alpha(s-1)+s-1}} u^{2_*-1} |\nabla_{L'} u| dx dy \\
& \leq \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{\alpha(s-1)}}{\rho^{\alpha(s-1)}} \frac{u^{2_* \frac{s-1}{s}}}{\rho^{s-1}} u^{2_* \frac{1}{s}-1} |\nabla_{L'} u| dx dy \\
& \leq \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{u^{2_*}}{\rho^s} dx dy \right)^{\frac{s-1}{s}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} u^{2_*} dx dy \right)^{\frac{2-s}{2s}} \\
& \quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \tag{2.10}
\end{aligned}$$

By the Sobolev type inequality (1.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2_*}}{\rho^s} dx dy \\
& \leq \left( \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \right)^s \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} u^{2_*} dx dy \right)^{\frac{2-s}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{s}{2}} \\
& \leq \left( \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \right)^s S^{\frac{2_*(2-s)}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{s}{2} + \frac{2_*}{2} \cdot \frac{2-s}{2}} \\
& = \left( \frac{2_*}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - s} \right)^s S^{\frac{2_*(2-s)}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{Q-s}{Q-2}}. \tag{2.11}
\end{aligned}$$

For  $s = 1$ , relation (2.10) leads one to

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^\alpha}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{|u|^{2_*(1)}}{\rho} dx dy \leq \frac{2_*(1)}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 1} S^{\frac{2_*}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{Q-1}{Q-2}}, \tag{2.12}$$

where  $2_*(1) = \frac{2(Q-1)}{Q-2}$ .

If  $s = 2$ , then  $2_* = 2$  and by (2.10), it follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{2\alpha}}{\rho^{2\alpha}} \frac{|u|^2}{\rho^2} dx dy &\leq \frac{2}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^\alpha}{\rho^{\alpha+1}} u |\nabla_L u| dx dy \\ &\leq \frac{2}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 2} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \left( \frac{|x'|^\alpha u}{\rho^{\alpha+1}} \right)^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \end{aligned}$$

namely,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{2\alpha}}{\rho^{2\alpha}} \frac{|u|^2}{\rho^2} dx dy \leq \left( \frac{2}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 2} \right)^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy.$$

Case 2:  $0 < s < 1$ . Using

$$2_*(s) = \frac{2(Q-s)}{Q-2} = (1-s)2_* + s2_*(1)$$

and (2.12), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^{s\alpha}}{\rho^{s\alpha}} \frac{|u|^{2_*}}{\rho^s} dx dy &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |u|^{(1-s)2_*} \left( \frac{|x'|^\alpha u^{2_*(1)}}{\rho^{\alpha+1}} \right)^s dx dy \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |u|^{2_*} dx dy \right)^{1-s} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \frac{|x'|^\alpha}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{|u|^{2_*(1)}}{\rho} dx dy \right)^s \\ &\leq S^{2_*(1-s)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{2_*(1-s)}{2}} \left( \frac{2_*(1)}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 1} S^{\frac{2_*}{2}} \right)^s \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{(Q-1)s}{Q-2}} \\ &= S^{\frac{2_*(2-s)}{2}} \left( \frac{2_*(1)}{k + (\alpha + 1)l - 1} \right)^s \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L u|^2 dx dy \right)^{\frac{Q-s}{Q-2}}, \end{aligned}$$

and the proof is complete.  $\square$

### 3. HARDY TYPE INEQUALITIES ON BOUNDED DOMAINS

In this section, let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  denote any bounded domain,  $(x, y) = (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega$ ,  $d_1 = d(x', y')$ ,  $B'_R(R)$ ,  $\nabla_{L'}$  as before. Define

$$\begin{aligned} r_\epsilon &:= \left( \epsilon^2 + |x'|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \sigma_\epsilon &:= \begin{pmatrix} I_k & 0 \\ 0 & r_\epsilon^\alpha I_l \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$



and set  $\sigma_\epsilon \nabla = \nabla_{L'}^\epsilon$ . For any vector field  $h \in C^1(\Omega_1, \mathbb{R}^{k+l})$ , we shall write  $\operatorname{div}_{L'}^\epsilon = \operatorname{div}(\sigma_\epsilon h)$ .

The following is the main result of this section.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $p > 1, k, l \geq 1$ , and  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ , be such that  $k + (\alpha + 1)l > \gamma - \beta - p$  and  $k > \alpha p - \beta$ . Then, for any  $u \in D^{1,p}(\Omega, |x'|^{\beta-\alpha p} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma})$ , we get*

$$c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma}^p \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \frac{|x'|^\beta}{d_1^\gamma} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p |x'|^{\beta-\alpha p} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma} = \frac{k+(\alpha+1)l+\beta-\gamma}{p}$ .

If  $(0,0) \in \Omega$ , then the constant  $c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma}^p$  in (3.1) is sharp.

**Corollary 1.** *If  $1 < p < k + (\alpha + 1)l$ , then*

$$c_{k,l,p}^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|x'|^{\alpha p}}{d_1^{\alpha p}} \frac{|u|^p}{d_1^p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p dx dy \quad (3.2)$$

for  $u \in D^{1,p}(\Omega)$ ;

$$c_{k,l,p}^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{d_1^p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p \frac{|x'|^{\alpha p}}{d_1^{\alpha p}} dx dy,$$

$$\text{for } k > \alpha p, u \in D^{1,p}\left(\Omega, \frac{|x'|^{\alpha p}}{d_1^{\alpha p}}\right); \quad (3.3)$$

and

$$c_{k,l,p}^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{d_1^p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L u|^p \frac{|x'|^{(\alpha+1)p}}{d_1^{(\alpha+1)p}} dx dy \quad (3.4)$$

$$\text{for } k > (\alpha + 1)p, u \in D^{1,p}\left(\Omega, \frac{|x'|^{(\alpha+1)p}}{d_1^{(\alpha+1)p}}\right),$$

where  $c_{k,l,p} = \frac{k+(\alpha+1)l-p}{p}$ .

In order to prove our results, we will use the following statement in [3].

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $\epsilon > 0$ , and  $h \in C^1(\Omega_1, \mathbb{R}^{k+l})$  such that  $\operatorname{div}_{L'}^\epsilon h > 0$ . Then for any  $p > 1$  and  $u \in C_0^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^{n+m})$ , one has*

$$\int_{\Omega_1} |u|^p \operatorname{div}_{L'}^\epsilon h dz_1 \leq p^p \int_{\Omega_1} |h|^p |\operatorname{div}_{L'}^\epsilon h|^{-(p-1)} |\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u| dz_1. \quad (3.5)$$

The following proposition is also useful. For a similar description in the Euclidean space see [9].

**Proposition 2.** *If  $\omega \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$ , then*

$$\inf_{\omega \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}), \omega \neq 0} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L \omega|^p dx dy}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\omega|^p dx dy} = 0. \quad (3.6)$$

*Proof.* Set  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+m})$  to be a nonnegative radial function and satisfy

$$\varphi(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d \leq \frac{1}{2}; \\ 0 & \text{if } d \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

with  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \varphi^p dx dy = 1$ . Letting  $\epsilon < 1$  and putting  $\varphi_\epsilon(d) = \epsilon^{-\frac{Q}{p}} \varphi\left(\frac{d}{\epsilon}\right)$ , we get  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \varphi_\epsilon(d)^p dx dy = 1$ . Note that  $\nabla_L \varphi_\epsilon(d) = \epsilon^{-\frac{Q}{p}-1} \varphi'\left(\frac{d}{\epsilon}\right) \nabla_L d$ . Setting  $d = \epsilon \rho$  and using (2.1) in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} |\nabla_L \varphi_\epsilon(d)|^p dx dy &= \epsilon^{-Q-p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+m}} \psi_{p\alpha} \left| \varphi'\left(\frac{d}{\epsilon}\right) \right|^p dx dy \\ &= \epsilon^{-p} s_{n,m} \int_{\{\rho < 1\}} \rho^{Q-1} |\varphi'(\rho)|^p d\rho \longrightarrow 0 \quad (\epsilon \rightarrow \infty) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$s_{n,m} = \left( \frac{1}{\alpha+1} \right)^m \omega_n \omega_m \int_{a_1}^{a_2} |\sin \theta|^{\frac{n+p\alpha}{\alpha+1}-1} |\cos \theta|^{m-1} d\theta.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Without loss of generality, we shall consider a smooth function  $u \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ . The general case will follow by the density argument. For  $\epsilon > 0$ , define

$$d_{1,\epsilon} = \left( r_\epsilon^{2(\alpha+1)} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2(\alpha+1)}}$$

and

$$h_\epsilon^1 = \frac{1}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} \left( \begin{array}{c} x' r_\epsilon^\beta \\ (\alpha+1) |x'|^2 y' r_\epsilon^{\beta-\alpha-2} \end{array} \right).$$

A simple computation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}_{L'}^\xi h_\epsilon^1 &= \operatorname{div} \frac{1}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} \left( \begin{array}{c} x' r_\epsilon^\beta \\ (\alpha+1) |x'|^2 y' r_\epsilon^{\beta-2} \end{array} \right) \\ &= \frac{r_\epsilon^\beta}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} \left( k + ((\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma) \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

and

$$|h_\epsilon^1| = \frac{r_\epsilon^{\beta-\alpha-2} |x'|^2}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} \left( \frac{r_\epsilon^{2\alpha+4}}{|x'|^2} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (3.8)$$

Putting  $f_\epsilon(s) = k + ((\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma) \frac{|s|^2}{\epsilon^2 + s^2}$ ,  $s \geq 0$ , it is easy to see that

$$f_\epsilon(s) \geq \begin{cases} k & \text{if } (\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma \geq 0, \\ k + (\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma & \text{if } (\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma < 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.9)$$

for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $s \geq 0$ . Since  $r_\epsilon \geq \epsilon$ , if  $k + (\alpha+1)l > \gamma - \beta$ , then  $\operatorname{div}_{L'}^\epsilon h_\epsilon^1 > 0$ .

Now we choose  $h = h_\epsilon^1$  in (3.5) and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^\beta}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} f_\epsilon(|x'|) dx dy &= \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} |u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^\beta}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} f_\epsilon(|x'|) dz_1 \\ &\leq p^p \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} |h_\epsilon^1|^p \left| \frac{r_\epsilon^\beta}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} f_\epsilon(|x'|)^{-(p-1)} \right| |\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p dz_1 \\ &= p^p \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} |\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^{-\beta(p-1)} \left( r_\epsilon^{\beta-\alpha-2} |x'|^2 \right)^p \left( \frac{r_\epsilon^{2\alpha+4}}{|x'|^2} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{d_{1,\epsilon}^{\gamma p} d_{1,\epsilon}^{-\gamma(p-1)} f_\epsilon(|x'|)^{p-1}} dz_1 \\ &= p^p \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} |\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^{\beta-(2+\alpha)p} |x'|^{2p} \left( \frac{r_\epsilon^{2\alpha+4}}{|x'|^2} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma f_\epsilon(|x'|)^{p-1}} dz_1. \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

Let  $m_1 = \min\{k, k + (\alpha+1)l + \beta - \gamma\} > 0$ . By  $r < r_\epsilon$  and (3.9) the right-hand side of (3.10) can be estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^{\beta-(2+\alpha)p} |x'|^{2p} \left( \frac{r_\epsilon^{2\alpha+4}}{|x'|^2} + (\alpha+1)^2 |y'|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma f_\epsilon(|x'|)^{p-1}} \\ \leq \frac{|\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p}{m_1^{p-1}} r_\epsilon^{\beta-\alpha p} d_{1,\epsilon}^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, following the assumptions  $k + (\alpha + 1)l > \gamma - \beta - p$  and  $k > \alpha p - \beta$ , and applying the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem to (3.10), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \frac{|x'|^\beta}{d_1^\gamma} f(|x'|) dx dy &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \frac{r_\epsilon^\beta}{d_{1,\epsilon}^\gamma} f_\epsilon(|x'|) dx dy \\ &\leq \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} p^p \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{|\nabla_{L'}^\epsilon u|^p}{m_1^{p-1}} r_\epsilon^{\beta-\alpha p} d_{1,\epsilon}^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1 \\ &\leq p^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla_L u|^p}{m_1^{p-1}} |x'|^{\beta-\alpha p} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

This shows the claim of (3.1).

Choosing  $(\beta, \gamma) = (\alpha p, (\alpha + 1)p)$ ,  $(\beta, \gamma) = (0, p)$  and  $(\beta, \gamma) = (-p, 0)$  in (3.1), implies the inequalities (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4), respectively.

Next, if  $(0, 0) \in \Omega$ , we prove the constant  $c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma}^p$  is sharp. The approach here comes from that in [9].

Let  $C(\Omega)$  be the best constant in (3.1), that is

$$C(\Omega) = \inf_{\phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega), \phi \neq 0} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L \phi|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |\phi|^p \frac{|x'|^\beta}{d_1^\gamma} dx dy}.$$

From (3.1), we easily get  $C(\Omega) \geq c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma}^p$ . We shall prove the equality sign holds.

Put  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  and  $\phi = v(z_1)\omega(z_2)$ , where  $v(z_1) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{k+l} \setminus \{(0,0)\})$ ,  $\omega(z_2) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)})$ . By the convexity of the function  $(a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{p}{2}}$  for  $a, b \geq 0$ , we have

$$(a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{p}{2}} \leq (1-\lambda)^{1-p} a^p + \lambda^{1-p} b^p,$$

where  $p > 1, 0 < \lambda < 1$ . Therefore, we find

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla_L \phi|^p &= |(\nabla_L(v(z_1)\omega(z_2)))|^2|^{\frac{p}{2}} \\ &= \left( |\nabla_{L'} v|^2 \omega^2 + v^2 |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \\ &\leq (1-\lambda)^{1-p} |\nabla_{L'} v|^p \omega^p + \lambda^{1-p} v^p |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^p, \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

where  $\nabla_{L''} := (Z_{k+1}, \dots, Z_n, Z_{n+l+1}, \dots, Z_m)$ . By (3.11), this leads one to

$$\begin{aligned}
C(\Omega) &\leq \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L \phi|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |\phi|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dx dy} \\
&\leq (1-\lambda)^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} v|^p |\omega|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |v\omega|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dx dy} \\
&\quad + \lambda^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |v|^p |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |v\omega|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dx dy} \\
&\leq (1-\lambda)^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\omega|^p dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |\nabla_{L'} v|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\omega|^p dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dz_1} \\
&\quad + \lambda^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^p dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\omega|^p dz_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dz_1} \\
&= (1-\lambda)^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |\nabla_{L'} v|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dz_1} \\
&\quad + \lambda^{1-p} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^p dz_2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\omega|^p dz_2} \cdot \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dz_1}.
\end{aligned}$$

From (3.6), we get

$$\inf_{\omega \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}), \omega \neq 0} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\nabla_{L''} \omega|^p dz_2}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)}} |\omega|^p dz_2} = 0.$$

For  $0 < \lambda < 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
C(\Omega) &\leq \inf_{\phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega), \phi \neq 0} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla_L \phi|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |\phi|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dx dy} \\
&\leq (1-\lambda)^{1-p} \inf_{v \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{k+l}), v \neq 0} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |\nabla_{L'} v|^p |x'|^{\beta-p\alpha} d_1^{(\alpha+1)p-\gamma} dz_1}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{k+l}} |v|^p \frac{|x'|^{\beta}}{d_1^{\gamma}} dz_1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

We choose  $Q = k + (\alpha + 1)l$  in the best constant  $c_{Q,p,\beta,\gamma}^p$  of (1.2), and let  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  in (3.12), hence

$$C(\Omega) \leq c_{k,l,p,\beta,\gamma}^p.$$

The theorem is proved.  $\square$

*Proof of Corollary 1.* Choosing  $(\beta, \gamma) = (\alpha p, (\alpha + 1)p)$ ,  $(\beta, \gamma) = (0, p)$  and taking  $(\beta, \gamma) = (-p, 0)$  in (3.1), we get inequalities (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4) respectively. The proof of the corollary is complete.  $\square$

*Remark 3.* We can also select  $h = d_{1,\epsilon}^{1-p} |\nabla_{L'} d_{1,\epsilon}|^{p-2} \nabla_{L'} d_{1,\epsilon}$  to prove (3.2), as in the proof of Theorem 2.

*Remark 4.* In (3.1), by choosing  $\beta = \alpha p$ ,  $\gamma = \alpha p - \lambda$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , we obtain

$$c_{k,l,p,\lambda}^p \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \left( \frac{|x'|}{d_1} \right)^{\alpha p} d_1^\lambda dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^p d_1^{p+\lambda} dx dy,$$

where  $c_{k,l,p,\lambda} = \frac{|k+(\alpha+1)l+\lambda|}{p}$ . If  $p = k + (\alpha + 1)l$ , and  $\lambda < -1$ , we let  $\tilde{c}_{k,l,p,\lambda} = \frac{|1+\lambda|}{p}$ ,  $\Omega = \{(x', y', x'', y'') \in \mathbb{R}^{k+l} \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k+(m-l)} \mid d_1 < R\}$ , and then have

$$\tilde{c}_{k,l,p,\lambda}^p \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \left( \frac{|x'|}{d_1} \right)^{\alpha p} \left( \ln \left( \frac{R}{d_1} \right) \right)^\lambda dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^p \left( \ln \left( \frac{R}{d_1} \right) \right)^{p+\lambda} dx dy.$$

In particular

$$\left( \frac{p-1}{p} \right)^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{\left( d_1 \ln \left( \frac{R}{d_1} \right) \right)^p} \left( \frac{|x'|}{d_1} \right)^{\alpha p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^p dx dy.$$

This result is more general than D'Ambrosio's in [4].

*Remark 5.* We note that if  $k = n$  and  $l = m$ , then (3.1) coincides with (1.2).

**Theorem 3.** Let  $1 < p < k$ . Then, for every  $u \in D^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , there exists a constant  $b_{k,p} = \frac{k-p}{p}$  such that the following inequalities hold:

$$b_{k,p}^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{|x'|^p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^p dx dy, \quad (3.13)$$

$$b_{k,p}^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{|d_1|^p} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^p dx dy. \quad (3.14)$$

In particular, if  $p = 2$  and  $k \geq 3$ , we have

$$\left( \frac{k-2}{2} \right)^2 \int_{\Omega} \frac{u^2}{d_1^2} dx dy \leq \left( \frac{k-2}{2} \right)^2 \int_{\Omega} \frac{u^2}{|x'|^2} dx dy \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla_{L'} u|^2 dx dy.$$

*Proof.* Let us first set

$$h_\epsilon^2 = \frac{1}{r_\epsilon^p} \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

A simple calculation shows that

$$\operatorname{div}_{L'} h_\epsilon^2 = \frac{1}{r_\epsilon^p} \left( k - p \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right)$$

and

$$|h_\epsilon^2| = \frac{|x'|}{r_\epsilon^p}.$$

Since  $p < k$ , we get  $\operatorname{div}_L^\epsilon h_\epsilon^2 > 0$ . From (3.5) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\Omega \frac{|u|^p}{r_\epsilon^p} \left( k - p \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right) dx dy &= \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} \frac{|u|^p}{r_\epsilon^p} \left( k - p \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right) dz_1 \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega_2} dz_2 \int_{\Omega_1} \left( \frac{|x'|}{r_\epsilon^p} \right)^p \left[ \frac{1}{r_\epsilon^p} \left( k - p \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right) \right]^{-(p-1)} |\nabla_L u|^p dz_1 \\ &\leq \int_\Omega \frac{|x'|^p}{r_\epsilon^p \left( k - p \frac{|x'|^2}{r_\epsilon^2} \right)^{(p-1)}} |\nabla_L u|^p dz_1. \end{aligned}$$

Using the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem and putting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  in the estimate above, we obtain (3.13). Using  $|x'| \leq d_1$  and (3.13), we get

$$\int_\Omega \frac{|u|^p}{d_1^p} dx dy \leq \int_\Omega \frac{|u|^p}{|x'|^p} dx dy.$$

Hence (3.14) is obtained.  $\square$

*Remark 6.* From the result above, it follows that the best constants in (3.13) and (3.14) lie in the interval  $[(k-p)^p p^{-p}, (k+(\alpha+1)l-p)^p p^{-p}]$ .

As a consequence of (3.5), we give a Poincaré inequality for the vector fields on domains  $\Omega$  contained in a slab. More precisely, we have

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  be an open subset. Suppose that there exist  $R > 0, s \in \mathbb{R}$  and an integer  $j : 1 \leq j \leq n$ , such that for any  $(x, y) \in \Omega$ , it follows that  $|x_j - s| \leq R$ . Then, for every  $u \in C_0^1(\Omega)$ , we have*

$$c \int_\Omega |u|^p dx dy \leq \int_\Omega |\nabla_L u|^p dx dy.$$

where  $c = (pR)^{-p}$ .

The proof of the corollary follows from Theorem 3 by using the vector field defined by the formula

$$h := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x_j - s \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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