

ON THE BOUNDEDNESS OF RIESZ POTENTIALS AND  
 FRACTIONAL MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS IN WEIGHTED ORLICZ SPACES

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1. Introduction. This paper deals with properties of the Riesz operators

$$(1.1) \quad (T_\gamma f)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{n-\gamma}} dy, \quad 0 < \gamma < n,$$

and fractional order maximal functions

$$(1.2) \quad (M_\gamma f)(x) = \sup_{x \in Q} \frac{1}{|Q|^{1-\gamma/n}} \int_Q |f(y)| dy, \quad 0 < \gamma < n,$$

(the supremum being taken over all cubes  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  containing  $x$  and with sides parallel to coordinate axes) in weighed Orlicz spaces

$$L_\Phi(\rho) = \{f; \|f\|_{L_\Phi(\rho)} = \inf \{ \lambda > 0; \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(\lambda^{-1}f(x))\rho(x) dx \leq 1 \} < \infty \}.$$

Let us briefly summarize important results; the boundedness of the operator (1.1) and/or (1.2) in  $L_p$ -spaces was investigated by Hardy and Littlewood in [3] ( $n = 1$ , and including power weights, too) followed by the fundamental Sobolev theorem [11] and then there is a series of theorems on weighted spaces (weights of power or somewhat more general type) [12], [7], [13], ... , and, finally, a complete answer to the weighted problem in  $L_p$ -spaces is due to Muckenhoupt and Wheeden [9] who fully characterized all admissible weights in terms of the so-called  $A_p$ -classes (or the Muckenhoupt classes) consisting of all a.e. positive functions  $\rho \in L_{1,loc}$  satisfying

$$\sup_Q \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \rho(x) dx \right) \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q (\rho(x))^{-1/(p-1)} dx \right)^{p-1} < \infty$$

(again, the supremum over all cubes  $Q$  with sides parallel to coordinate axes). Recently, Kerman and Torchinsky [5] proved that the (non-fractional) maximal function is bounded in  $L_{\phi}(\rho)$  iff  $\rho \in A_{i(\phi)}$  where

$$(1.3) \quad i(\phi) = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\log \lambda} \log \sup_{t > 0} \frac{\phi(\lambda t)}{\phi(t)}$$

is the lower index of  $\phi$ .

Here, we are going to study operators of the type (1.1) and (1.2) acting from a weighted Orlicz space into another one. Somewhat surprisingly - as in [5] - we obtain a condition in the  $A_p$ -classes language.

We shall suppose that a reader is familiar with basic facts from the theory of Orlicz spaces. We work with Young functions in sense of [4]. The number

$$(1.4) \quad I(\phi) = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log \lambda} \log \sup_{t > 0} \frac{\phi(\lambda t)}{\phi(t)}$$

is the upper index of  $\phi$  (cf. (1.3); see [8], [1]). A Young function  $\phi$  such that  $I(\phi) < \infty$  is said to satisfy the  $\Delta_2$ -condition.

## 2. The main result.

**2.1. Theorem.** Let  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  be Young functions such that  $1 < i(\phi_1) = p \leq I(\phi_1) < \infty$ ,  $1 < i(\phi_2) = q \leq I(\phi_2) < \infty$ . Let  $\rho$  be a weight in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $0 < \gamma < n$ , and  $\phi_2^{-1}(t) \sim t^{-\gamma/n} \phi_1^{-1}(t)$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent

$$(i) \quad \| |T_{\gamma}(f\rho^{\gamma/n})| \|_{L_{\phi_2}(\rho)} \leq c \| |f| \|_{L_{\phi_1}(\rho)},$$

$$(ii) \quad \| |M_{\gamma}(f\rho^{\gamma/n})| \|_{L_{\phi_2}(\rho)} \leq c \| |f| \|_{L_{\phi_1}(\rho)},$$

$$(iii) \quad \rho \in A_s \text{ where } s = 1 + q/p' \quad (p' = \frac{p}{p-1}).$$

Sketch of the proof. The implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) follows directly from the well-known estimate

$$(M_{\gamma}g)(x) \leq c(T_{\gamma}|g|)(x).$$

Now let us suppose that (ii) holds with  $\varepsilon\rho$  instead of  $\rho$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We prove that  $\varepsilon\rho \in A_s$  (which is, of course, equivalent to  $\rho \in A_s$ ). This will be done in two steps.

Step 1. Let  $\psi_1$  be a Young function complementary to  $\phi_1$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  a cube, and  $y \in Q$ . Let  $f_0$  be an a.e. non-negative function supported in  $Q$ , with the  $L_{\phi_1}(\varepsilon\rho)$ -norm equal 1, and

$\|f_0(\varepsilon\rho)^{\gamma/n}\|_{L_1(Q)} = \|x_Q/(\varepsilon\rho)^{1-\gamma/n}\|_{L_{\psi_1}(\varepsilon\rho)}$ . From the definition of  $M_\gamma$  we have

$$(2.1) \quad (M(f_0(\varepsilon\rho)^{\gamma/n}))(\gamma) \geq \frac{1}{|Q|^{1-\gamma/n}} \left\| \frac{x_Q}{(\varepsilon\rho)^{1-\gamma/n}} \right\|_{L_{\psi_1}(\varepsilon\rho)} x_Q(\gamma),$$

and, using (ii) and taking  $L_{\phi_2}(\varepsilon\rho)$ -norm on both sides of (2.1) we get

$$(2.2) \quad \left\| \frac{x_Q}{(\varepsilon\rho)^{1-\gamma/n}} \right\|_{L_{\psi_1}(\varepsilon\rho)} \|x_Q\|_{L_{\phi_2}(\varepsilon\rho)} \leq c|Q|^{1-\gamma/n}.$$

Step 2. We reduce (2.2) to the case described in the following

Proposition ([5]). Let  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  be complementary Young functions both satisfying the  $\Delta_2$ -condition. If  $\|x_Q/\varepsilon\rho\|_{L_\psi(\varepsilon\rho)} \|x_Q\|_{L_\phi(\varepsilon\rho)} \leq c|Q|$  for all cubes  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  then  $\rho \in A_{1(\phi)}$ .

Now set  $\beta = n/(n-\gamma)$ ,  $\phi_3^{-1}(t) = (\phi_2^{-1}(t))^\beta$ , and  $\phi_3(t) = \psi_1(t^{1/\beta})$ . One can verify that  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  form a complementary couple of Young functions, and that  $\|x_Q\|_{L_{\phi_2}^\beta(\varepsilon\rho)} = \|x_Q\|_{L_{\phi_3}(\varepsilon\rho)}$ ,  $\|x_Q/(\varepsilon\rho)^{1-\gamma/n}\|_{L_{\psi_1}^\beta(\varepsilon\rho)} = \|x_Q/\varepsilon\rho\|_{L_{\psi_3}(\varepsilon\rho)}$ .

Hence (2.2) yields

$$\left\| \frac{x_Q}{\varepsilon\rho} \right\|_{L_{\psi_3}(\varepsilon\rho)} \|x_Q\|_{L_{\phi_3}(\varepsilon\rho)} \leq c|Q|$$

so that  $\rho \in A_{1(\phi_3)}$  in accordance with the preceding Proposition. Because  $i(\phi_3) = 1/I(\phi_3^{-1}) = 1/\beta I(\phi_2^{-1}) = q(1 - \gamma/n) = s$ , (iii) follows.

It remains to prove that (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). A detailed proof requires some particular interpolation results so that we refer to [6] and [2] and just notice that if  $\phi$  is a Young function with  $1 < i(\phi)$ ,  $I(\phi) < \infty$  then  $L_\phi(\rho)$  can be obtained by interpolation of any couple  $(L_{r_1}(\rho), L_{r_2}(\rho))$  where  $1 < r_1 < i(\phi)$ ,  $I(\phi) < r_2 < \infty$ . So let  $\rho \in A_s$ . A known fact is that then  $\rho \in A_{s_1}$  for some  $s_1 < s$ , and  $\rho \in A_s^\vee$  for all  $\hat{s} > s_1$ . As

$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{\gamma}{n} + \frac{1}{s} \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{n}\right), \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{s} \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{n}\right),$$

choosing  $s_1$  sufficiently close to  $s$ ,  $s_2$  large enough, and putting

$$\frac{1}{p_i} = \frac{\gamma}{n} + \frac{1}{s_i}, \text{ and } \frac{1}{q_i} = \frac{1}{s_i} (1 - \frac{\gamma}{n}), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

we have  $1 < p_1 < p \leq I(\phi_1) < p_2$ ,  $1 < q_1 < q \leq I(\phi_2) < q_2$ . By interpolation procedure applied to the Muckenhoupt-Wheeden result [9]

$$\|T_Y(f\rho^{\gamma/n})\|_{L_{q_i}(\rho)} \leq c \|f\|_{L_{p_i}(\rho)}, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

(i) follows.

Remarks. 1. A complete detailed proof together with applications to Sobolev-Orlicz weighted spaces can be found in [6].

2. A routine plays the major role in a generalization of Theorem 2.1 to anisotropic fractional order maximal functions.

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