

## STUDIA MATHEMATICA 102 (1) (1992)

## On multilinear fractional integrals

by

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Abstract. In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we prove  $L^{p_1} \times \ldots \times L^{p_K}$  boundedness for the multilinear fractional integrals  $I_{\alpha}(f_1,\ldots,f_K)(x) = \int f_1(x-\theta_1y)\ldots f_K(x-\theta_Ky)|y|^{\alpha-n}\,dy$  where the  $\theta_j$ 's are nonzero and distinct. We also prove multilinear versions of two inequalities for fractional integrals and a multilinear Lebesgue differentiation theorem.

1. Introduction. Although it is not known whether the bi(sub)linear maximal function

$$M(f,g)(x) = \sup_{N>0} \frac{1}{2N} \int_{-N}^{N} |f(x+t)g(x-t)| dt$$

or the bilinear Hilbert transform

$$H(f,g)(x) = \text{p.v.} \int f(x+t)g(x-t) \frac{dt}{t}$$

map  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^1) \times L^{p'}(\mathbb{R}^1) \to L^1(\mathbb{R}^1)$  boundedness into  $L^1$  for the corresponding multilinear fractional integrals can be obtained.

Throughout this note, K will denote an integer  $\geq 2$  and  $\theta_j$ ,  $j = 1, \ldots, K$ , will be fixed, distinct and nonzero real numbers. We are going to be working in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\alpha$  will be a fixed real number number strictly between 0 and n. We denote by  $\mathbf{f}$  the K-tuple  $(f_1, \ldots, f_K)$  and by  $I_{\alpha}$  the K-linear fractional integral operator defined as follows:

$$I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) = \int f_1(x-\theta_1 y) \dots f_K(x-\theta_K y) |y|^{\alpha-n} dy.$$

When K=1 the operators  $I_{\alpha}$  are the usual fractional integrals as studied in [ST]. We also denote by  $M(\mathbf{f})$  the K-sublinear maximal function

$$M(\mathbf{f})(x) = \sup_{N>0} (\Omega_n N^n)^{-1} \int |f_1(x - \theta_1 y)| \dots |f_K(x - \theta_K y)| \, dy$$

where  $\Omega_n$  is the volume of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . It is trivial to check that for any positive  $p_1, \ldots, p_K$  with harmonic mean s > 1, M maps  $L^{p_1} \times \ldots \times L^{p_K}$  into  $L^s$ . If we denote by  $f^*$  the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function of f,



then  $M(\mathbf{f})$  is dominated by the product  $C_{\theta_k}((f_1^{p_1/s})^*)^{s/p_1}\dots((f_1^{p_K/s})^*)^{s/p_K}$  and hence its boundedness follows from Hölder's inequality and the  $L^s$  boundedness of the Hardy–Littlewood maximal function. This argument breaks down when s=1 but a slight modification of it gives that M maps into weak  $L^1$  in this endpoint case. It is conceivable, however, that M map into  $L^1$  since it carries K-tuples of compactly supported functions into compactly supported functions. This problem remains unsolved. The  $L^p \times L^q \to L^r$  boundedness of the bilinear Hilbert transform H(f,g) is more subtle and it remains unsolved even in the case r>1.

In this note, we study the easier problem of the multilinear fractional integrals. Our first result concerns the  $L^{p_1} \times \ldots \times L^{p_K} \to L^r$  boundedness of  $I_{\alpha}$  for  $r \geq 1$ .

THEOREM 1. Let s be the harmonic mean of  $p_1, \ldots, p_K > 1$  and let r be such that  $1/r + \alpha/n = 1/s$ . Then  $I_{\alpha}$  maps  $L^{p_1} \times \ldots \times L^{p_K}$  into  $L^r$  for  $n/(n+\alpha) \leq s < n/\alpha$  (equivalently  $1 \leq r < \infty$ ).

Note that in the case K=1, the corresponding range of s is the smaller interval  $1 < s < n/\alpha$  (equivalently  $n/(n-\alpha) < r < \infty$ ).

When K=1, the following theorem has been proved by Hirschman [HI] for periodic functions and by Hedberg [HE] for positive functions.

THEOREM 2. Let  $p_j$  be positive real numbers and let s > 1 be their harmonic mean. Then for q, r > 1 and  $0 < \theta < 1$ ,

$$||I_{\alpha\theta}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^r} \leq C||I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^q}^{\theta} \prod_k ||f_k||_{L^{p_k}}^{1-\theta} \quad where \quad \frac{1}{r} = \frac{\theta}{q} + \frac{1-\theta}{s}.$$

In the endpoint case  $s = n/\alpha$ , Trudinger [T] for  $\alpha = 1$ , and Strichartz [STR] for other  $\alpha$  proved exponential integrability of  $I_{\alpha}$  when K = 1. Hedberg [HE] gave a proof of Theorem 3 below when K = 1.

By  $\omega_{n-1}$  we denote the area of the unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$ . The factor L in the exponent below is a normalizing factor and should be there by homogeneity.

THEOREM 3. Let  $s=n/\alpha$  be the harmonic mean of  $p_1,\ldots,p_K>1$ . Let B be a ball of radius R in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $f_j\in L^{p_j}(B)$  be supported in B. Then for any  $\gamma<1$ , there exists a constant  $C_0(\gamma)$  depending only on n,  $\alpha$ , the  $\theta_j$ 's and on  $\gamma$  such that

(1.1) 
$$\int_{B} \exp\left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}}\gamma\left(\frac{LI_{\alpha}(f_{1},\ldots,f_{K})}{\|f_{1}\|_{L^{p_{1}}}\ldots\|f_{K}\|_{L^{p_{K}}}}\right)^{n/(n-\alpha)}\right)dx \leq C_{0}(\gamma)R^{n}$$

$$where \quad L = \prod_{k} |\theta_{k}|^{n/p_{k}}.$$

All the comments in this paragraph refer to the case K=1. Hempel et al. [HMT] (for  $\alpha=1$ ) and later Adams [A] (for all  $\alpha$ ) showed that inequality (1.1) cannot hold if  $\gamma>1$ . Moser [M] showed exponential integrability of  $n\omega_{n-1}^{1/(n-1)}(|\phi(x)|/\|\nabla\phi\|_{L^n})^{n/(n-1)}$  suggesting that Theorem 3 be true in the endpoint case  $\gamma=1$ . (Use formula (18), p. 125 in [ST] to show that Moser's result follows from an improved Theorem 3 with  $\gamma=1$ .) In fact, Adams [A] proved inequality (1.1) in the endpoint case  $\gamma=1$  and also deduced the sharp constants for Moser's exponential inequality for higher order derivatives. Chang and Marshall [CM] proved a similar sharp exponential inequality concerning the Dirichlet integral.

When  $\gamma > 1$ , Theorem 3 does not hold either, while the case  $\gamma = 1$  remains open when  $K \geq 2$ .

2. Proof of Theorem 1. We denote by |B| the measure of the set B and by  $\chi_A$  the characteristic function of the set A. We also use the notation s' = s/(s-1) for  $s \ge 1$ .

We consider first the case  $s \geq 1$ . We will show that  $I_{\alpha}$  maps  $L^{p_1} \times \ldots \times L^{p_K} \to L^{r,\infty}$ . The required result when s>1 is going to follow from an application of the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem. Without loss of generality we can assume that  $f_j \geq 0$  and that  $\|f_j\|_{L^{p_j}} = 1$ . Fix a  $\lambda > 0$  and define  $\mu > 0$  by

$$L^{-1} \left( \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{(\alpha - n)s' + n} \right)^{1/s'} \mu^{-n/r} = \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

where  $\omega_{n-1}$  and L are as in Theorem 3. Hölder's inequality and our choice of  $\mu$  give

$$(2.1) \quad I_{\alpha}^{\infty}(\mathbf{f})(x) = \int_{|y| > \mu} f_{1}(x - \theta_{1}y) \dots f_{K}(x - \theta_{K}y)|y|^{\alpha - n} \, dy$$

$$\leq \left\| \prod f_{k}(x - \theta_{k}y) \right\|_{L^{s}(y)} \||y|^{\alpha - n} \chi_{|y| > \mu}\|_{L^{s'}}$$

$$\leq \prod \|f_{k}(x - \theta_{k}y)\|_{L^{p_{k}}(y)} \left( \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{(\alpha - n)s' + n} \right)^{1/s'} \mu^{n(\alpha/n - 1 + 1/s')} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \, .$$

Let  $I_{\alpha}^{0}(\mathbf{f})(x) = \int_{|y| \leq \mu} f_{1}(x - \theta_{1}y) \dots f_{K}(x - \theta_{K}y)|y|^{\alpha - n} dy$ . We compute its  $L^{s}$  norm:

(2.2) 
$$||I_{\alpha}^{0}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{s}} \leq ||(\int (\prod f_{k})^{s} |y|^{\alpha-n} \chi_{|y| \leq \mu} dy)^{1/s} \times (\int 1^{s'} |y|^{\alpha-n} \chi_{|y| \leq \mu} dy)^{1/s'}||_{L^{s}}$$



 $\leq C\mu^{\alpha/s'} \Big( \int \int \Big( \prod f_k \Big)^s |y|^{\alpha-n} \chi_{|y| \leq \mu} \, dx \, dy \Big)^{1/s}$   $\leq C\mu^{\alpha/s'} \Big( \prod \|f_k\|_{L^{p_k}}^s \int_{|y| \leq \mu} |y|^{\alpha-n} \, dy \Big)^{1/s'}$   $= C\mu^{\alpha/s'} \mu^{\alpha/s} = C\mu^{\alpha}.$ 

By (2.1) the set  $\{x: I_{\alpha}^{\infty}(\mathbf{f})(x) > \lambda/2\}$  is empty. This fact together with Chebyshev's inequality and (2.2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} |\{x: I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) > \lambda\}| &\leq |\{x: I_{\alpha}^{0}(\mathbf{f})(x) > \lambda/2\}| \\ &\leq 2^{s} \lambda^{-s} ||I_{\alpha}^{0}||_{L^{s}}^{s} \leq C \lambda^{-s} \mu^{s\alpha} = C_{\theta_{k}} \lambda^{-r}, \end{aligned}$$

which is the required weak type estimate for  $I_{\alpha}$ .

We now do the case  $n/(n+\alpha) \le s \le 1$ . The corresponding range of r's is  $1 \le r \le n/(n-\alpha)$ . Assume that K=2 and that  $p_1 \ge p_2 > 1$ . Also assume that r=1 first. Since  $s < n/\alpha$  we must have  $p_2 < n/\alpha$ . For r=1 we get

$$(2.3) ||I_{\alpha}(f_{1}, f_{2})||_{L^{1}} = \int \int f_{1}(x - \theta_{1}y)f_{2}(x - \theta_{2}y)|y|^{\alpha - n} dx dy$$

$$= \int f_{1}(x) \int f_{2}(x - (\theta_{2} - \theta_{1})y)|y|^{\alpha - n} dy dx$$

$$= |\theta_{2} - \theta_{1}|^{-\alpha} \int f_{1}(x)I_{\alpha}(f_{2})(x) dx$$

$$\leq C_{\theta_{1}, \theta_{2}} ||f_{1}||_{L^{p_{1}}} ||I_{\alpha}(f_{2})||_{r^{p'_{1}}}.$$

Note that r=1 implies  $1/p_1'+\alpha/n=1/p_2$ . Since  $1 < p_2 < n/\alpha$ , we can apply Theorem 1, Ch. V on fractional integrals in [ST] to bound (2.3) by  $C_{\theta_1,\theta_2}\|f_1\|_{L^{p_1}}\|f_2\|_{L^{p_2}}$ . The case of general r>1 follows by interpolating between the endpoint case r=1 and the case of r close to  $\infty$ . Suppose now that the theorem is true for K-1,  $K\geq 3$ . We will show that it is true for K. Again we first do the case r=1. We may assume without loss of generality that  $p_1\geq \ldots \geq p_K>1$ . Now,

$$(2.4) ||I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{1}} = \int \int f_{1}(x-\theta_{1}y) \dots f_{K}(x-\theta_{K}y)|y|^{\alpha-n} dx dy$$

$$= \int f_{1}(x) \int f_{2}(x-(\theta_{2}-\theta_{1})y) \dots f_{K}(x-(\theta_{K}-\theta_{1})y)|y|^{\alpha-n} dy dx$$

$$= \prod_{k\neq 1} |\theta_{k}-\theta_{1}|^{-\alpha} \int |f_{1}(x)I_{\alpha}(f_{2},\dots,f_{K})(x) dx$$

$$\leq C_{\theta_{k}} ||f_{1}||_{L^{p_{1}}} ||I_{\alpha}(f_{2},\dots,f_{K})||_{L^{p'_{k}}}.$$

Define  $s_1$  by  $1/s_1 = 1/s - 1/p_1$ . Since r = 1, we have  $1/p'_1 + \alpha/n = 1/s_1$ . We can apply the induction hypothesis only provided  $n/(n+\alpha) \le s_1 < n/\alpha$ . This inequality follows from the identity  $1 + \alpha/n = 1/s$ , which relates s and r = 1. From our induction hypothesis we deduce that (2.4) is bounded by  $C_{\theta_i} \prod ||f_k||_{L^{p_k}}$ . The case  $r \ge 1$  follows by interpolation.

3. Proof of Theorem 2. As in the proof of Theorem 1, fix  $f_j \geq 0$  such that  $||f_j||_{L^{p_j}} = 1$ . As in [HE], split

$$\begin{split} I_{\alpha\theta}(\mathbf{f})(x) &= \left(\int\limits_{|y|<\delta} + \int\limits_{|y|\geq\delta}\right) \prod f_k(x-\theta_k y)|y|^{\alpha\theta-n} \, dy \\ &\leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int\limits_{|y|\sim\delta2^{-m}} \prod f_k(x-\theta_k y)|y|^{\alpha\theta-n} \, dy \\ &+ \int\limits_{|y|\geq\delta} \prod f_k(x-\theta_k y)|y|^{\alpha-n}|y|^{(\theta-1)\alpha} \, dy \\ &\leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (\delta2^{-m})^{\alpha\theta} \int\limits_{|y|\sim\delta2^{-m}} \prod f_k(x-\theta_k y)|y|^{-n} \, dy \\ &+ \delta^{(\theta-1)\alpha} \int\limits_{|y|\geq\delta} \prod f_k(x-\theta_k y)|y|^{\alpha-n} \, dy \\ &\leq C\delta^{\alpha(\theta-\varepsilon)} M(\mathbf{f})(x) + \delta^{\alpha(\theta-1)} I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \, . \end{split}$$

Now choose  $\delta = (I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x)/M(\mathbf{f})(x))^{1/\alpha}$  to get  $I_{\alpha\theta}(\mathbf{f})(x) \leq C(I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x))^{\theta} (M(\mathbf{f})(x))^{1-\theta}.$ 

Hölder's inequality with exponents

$$1/r = 1 / \left(\frac{s}{1-\theta}\right) + 1 / \left(\frac{q}{\theta}\right)$$

will give

$$||I_{\alpha\theta}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{r}} \leq C||I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})^{\theta}||_{L^{q/\theta}}||M(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{s/(1-\theta)}}$$
  
=  $C||I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{q}}^{\theta}||M(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{s}}^{1-\theta} \leq C||I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})||_{L^{q}}^{\theta}$ 

by the boundedness of the maximal function M on  $L^q$ . This concludes the proof of Theorem 2.

4. Proof of Theorem 3. A simple dilation argument shows that if we know Theorem 3 for a specific value of  $R=R_0$  with a constant  $C_0'(\gamma)$  on the right hand side of (1.1), then we also know it for all other values of R with constant  $C_0'(\gamma)(R/R_0)^n$ . We select  $R_0=1/P$  where  $P=2\min|\theta_k|^{-1}$  and we will assume that the radius of B is  $R_0$ . Furthermore, we can assume that the  $f_j$ 's satisfy  $f_j \geq 0$  and  $||f_j||_{L^{p_j}} = 1$ . Now fix  $x \in B$ . The same argument as in Theorem 2 with  $\theta=1$  gives

$$(4.1) I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \leq C\delta^{\alpha} M(\mathbf{f})(x) + \int\limits_{|y| \geq \delta} \prod f_{k}(x - \theta_{k}y)|y|^{\alpha - n} dy.$$

Since all  $f_k$  are supported in the ball B and  $x \in B$  the integral in (4.1) is over the set  $\{y : \delta \leq |y| \leq PR_0 = 1\}$ . Hölder's inequality with exponents  $p_1, \ldots, p_K$  and  $n/(n-\alpha)$  gives

$$(4.2) \int_{\delta \leq |y| \leq 1} \prod f_k(x - \theta_k y) |y|^{\alpha - n} dy$$

$$\leq \prod \|f_k(x - \theta_k y)\|_{L^{p_k}(y)} \Big(\int_{\delta \leq |y| \leq 1} |y|^{-n} dy\Big)^{(n - \alpha)/n}$$

$$= L^{-1} \Big(\omega_{n-1} \ln \frac{1}{\delta}\Big)^{(n-\alpha)/n}.$$

Combining (4.1) and (4.2) we get

$$(4.3) I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \leq C\delta^{\alpha} M(\mathbf{f})(x) + L^{-1} \left(\frac{\omega_{n-1}}{n} \ln \left(\frac{1}{\delta}\right)^{n}\right)^{(n-\alpha)/n}.$$

The choice  $\delta = 1$  gives  $I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \leq CM(\mathbf{f})(x)$  for all  $x \in B$  and therefore the selection  $\delta = \delta(x) = \varepsilon(I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x)(CM(\mathbf{f})(x))^{-1})^{1/\alpha}$  will satisfy  $\delta \leq 1$  for all  $\varepsilon \leq 1$ . (4.3) now implies

$$I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \leq \varepsilon^{\alpha} I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) + L^{-1} \left( \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{n} \ln \left( \frac{(CM(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/\alpha}}{\varepsilon^{n} I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x)^{n/\alpha}} \right) \right)^{(n-\alpha)/n}.$$

Algebraic manipulation of the above gives

(4.4) 
$$\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} \gamma (LI_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/(n-\alpha)} \le \ln \left( \frac{(CM(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/\alpha}}{\varepsilon^n I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x)^{n/\alpha}} \right)$$

where we set  $\gamma = (1 - \varepsilon^{\alpha})^{n/(n-\alpha)}$ . We exponentiate (4.4) and we integrate over the set  $B_1 = \{x \in B : I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x) \geq 1\}$  to obtain

$$\int_{B_1} \exp\left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} \gamma (LI_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/(n-\alpha)}\right) dx \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \int_{B_1} \frac{(CM(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/\alpha}}{I_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x)^{n/\alpha}} dx$$

$$\leq \frac{C_1}{\varepsilon^n} \int M(\mathbf{f})(x)^{n/\alpha} dx \leq \frac{C_2}{\varepsilon^n}.$$

The last inequality follows from the boundedness of the maximal function of f on  $L^{n/\alpha}$ . The integral of the same exponential over the set  $B_2 = B - B_1$  is estimated trivially by

$$\int_{B_2} \exp\left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} \gamma (LI_{\alpha}(\mathbf{f})(x))^{n/(n-\alpha)}\right) dx \le \exp\left(\frac{n}{\omega_{n-1}} L^{n/(n-\alpha)}\right) |B_2|$$

$$\le C_3 \Omega_n R_0^n = C_4.$$

Adding the integrals above over  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  we obtain the required inequality with a constant  $C'_0(\gamma) = \max(C_2, C_4)(1 + (1 - \gamma^{(n-\alpha)/n})^{-n/\alpha})$ . The constant

 $C_0(\gamma)$  in the statement of Theorem 3 is then  $C_0'(\gamma)R_0^{-n}=C_0'(\gamma)P^n$ . We obtain the following

COROLLARY. Let B,  $f_k$ ,  $p_k$ , and s be as in Theorem 3. Then  $I_{\alpha}(f_1, \ldots, f_K)$  is in  $L^q(B)$  for every q > 0. In fact,

$$||I_{\alpha}(f_1,\ldots,f_K)||_{L^q(B)} \leq C \prod_k ||f_k||_{L^{p_k}}$$

for some constant C depending only on q, n,  $\alpha$  and the  $\theta_j$ 's.

The corollary follows since exponential integrability of  $I_{\alpha}$  implies integrability to any power q. (Here  $\gamma$  is fixed < 1.)

5. A multilinear differentiation theorem. We end this note by proving the following multilinear Lebesgue differentiation theorem.

Let  $f_j \in L^{p_j}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and suppose that the harmonic mean of  $p_1, \ldots, p_K$  is  $s \geq 1$ . Then

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} T_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{f})(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{1}{\Omega_{n} \varepsilon^{n}} \int_{|y| \le \varepsilon} f_{1}(x - \theta_{1}y) \dots f_{K}(x - \theta_{K}y) dy$$
$$= f_{1}(x) \dots f_{K}(x) \quad a.e.$$

The case s = 1 is a consequence of the weak type inequality

$$|\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : M(\mathbf{f})(x) > \lambda\}| \le \frac{C}{\lambda} ||f_1||_{L^{p_1}} \dots ||f_1||_{L^{p_K}},$$

which is easily obtained from

$$\begin{aligned} |\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : M(\mathbf{f})(x) > \lambda\}| &\leq \sum_{j=1}^K |\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (f_j)^*(x) > (\varepsilon_{j-1}/\varepsilon_j)^{p_j}\}| \\ &\leq C \sum_{j=1}^K (\varepsilon_{j-1}/\varepsilon_j)^{-p_j} ||f_j||_{L^{p_j}} \end{aligned}$$

after minimizing over all  $\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_K > 0$ . (Take  $\varepsilon_0 = \lambda$ .) The standard argument presented in [SWE], p. 61, will prove that the sequence  $\{T_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{f})(x)\}_{\varepsilon>0}$  is Cauchy for almost all x and therefore it converges. Since for continuous  $f_1, \ldots, f_K$  it converges to the value of their product at the point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , to deduce the general case it will suffice to show that  $\{T_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{f})\}_{\varepsilon>0}$  converges to the product of the  $f_j$ 's in the  $L^s$  norm as  $\varepsilon \to 0$ . (Then some subsequence will converge to the product a.e.) Setting  $(\tau_y f)(x) = f(x - y)$ , we get

$$||T_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{f}) - f_1 \dots f_K||_{L^s} \leq \frac{1}{\Omega_n \varepsilon^n} \int_{|y| \leq \varepsilon} \left| \prod_j \tau_{\theta_j y} f_j - \prod_j f_j \right||_{L^s} dy$$



$$\leq \frac{1}{\Omega_n \varepsilon^n} \int_{|y| \leq \varepsilon} \sum_{j=1}^K \| \tau_{\theta_j y} f_j - f_j \|_{L^{p_j}} \prod_{k \neq j} \| f_j \|_{L^{p_k}} dy \to 0$$

as  $|y| \to 0$  since the last integrand is a continuous function of y which vanishes at the origin. The last inequality above follows by adding and subtracting 2K-2 suitable terms and applying Hölder's inequality K times.

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## Orthogonal polynomials and middle Hankel operators on Bergman spaces

by

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Abstract. We introduce a sequence of Hankel style operators  $H^k$ ,  $k=1,2,3,\ldots$ , which act on the Bergman space of the unit disk. These operators are intermediate between the classical big and small Hankel operators. We study the boundedness and Schatten-von Neumann properties of the  $H^k$  and show, among other things, that  $H^k$  are cut-off at 1/k. Recall that the big Hankel operator is cut-off at 1 and the small Hankel operator at 0.

Introduction and background. Let  $\mathbb D$  be the unit disk of the complex plane  $\mathbb C$  and let  $dA(z)=(1/\pi)dxdy$  be normalized Lebesgue measure.  $L^2=L^2(dA)$  is the Hilbert space of functions u for which the norm

$$\|u\|=\Big(\int\limits_{\mathbb{D}}|u(z)|^2\,dA(z)\Big)^{1/2}$$

is finite. The Bergman space, A, is the subspace of all analytic functions in  $L^2$ .

The big and small Hankel operators on A with symbol b are defined by

$$H_b(f) = (I - P)(\overline{b}f), \quad h_b(f) = Q(\overline{b}f).$$

P and Q are orthogonal projections from  $L^2$  onto A and  $\bar{A}_0=\{f\in L^2: \bar{f}\in A \text{ and } f(0)=0\}$  respectively.

For  $0 denote the Schatten-von Neumann ideal by <math>S_p$  ( $S_{\infty}$  is the class of bounded operators) and the analytic Besov space in  $\mathbb D$  by  $B_p$  ( $B_{\infty}$  is the Bloch space). The main  $S_p$  results for the big and small Hankel operators with analytic symbols can be summarized as follows (see [A], [Pel1, 2], [R1, 2], [S], [AFP] and [J1]).

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