

# EXTRAPOLATION AND COMMUTATORS OF SINGULAR INTEGRALS

**Carlos Segovia**

## *1. Introduction*

*In these notes we shall present results concerning  $L^p$  inequalities with different but related weights for commutators of singular and strongly singular integrals.*

*These commutators turn out to be controlled by commutator of fractional order of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator.*

*The boundedness properties are obtained by extrapolation from infinity.*

*These notes are based mainly on [G-H-S-T].*

We denote by  $R^n$  the  $n$ -dimensional euclidean space. The Lebesgue measure of a Lebesgue measurable set  $E \subset R^n$  is denoted by  $|E|$ . If  $Q$  is a cube in  $R^n$  and  $\gamma$  is a real number, then  $\gamma Q$  shall stand for the cube with the same center as  $Q$  and side  $\gamma$  times that of  $Q$ . A weight  $w(x)$  is a non-negative measurable function on  $R^n$ . The measure associated with  $w$  is the set function

given by  $w(E) = \int_E w(x) dx$ . By  $L^p(w)$ ,  $0 < p < \infty$ , we denote the space of all Lebesgue measurable functions  $f(x)$  such that

$$\|f\|_{L^p(w)} = \left( \int_{R^n} |f(x)|^p w(x) dx \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

The average of locally integrable function  $f$  over a cube  $Q$  is defined as  $m_Q f = |Q|^{-1} \int_Q f(x) dx$ . Given a cube  $Q \subset R^n$  and  $0 < r < \infty$ , the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function with respect to  $Q$  of a function  $f(x)$ ,  $x \in Q$ , is defined as

$$M_r^Q(f)(x) = \sup_{x \in J \subset Q} \left( |J|^{-1} \int_J |f(y)|^r dy \right)^{1/r},$$

where  $J$  is any cube satisfying the condition. If  $Q = R^n$  we simply write  $M_r(f)$  instead of  $M_r^{R^n}(f)$  and if, in addition,  $r = 1$ , just  $M(f)$ . Given  $1 < p < \infty$ , a necessary and sufficient condition for a weight  $w(x)$  to satisfy

$$\int_Q (M_1^Q(f)(x))^p w(x) dx \leq C \int_Q |f(x)|^p w(x) dx,$$

with a constant  $C$  independent of  $f$ , is that  $w$  belongs to the class  $A_p$  of Muckenhoupt, i.e. that  $w$  satisfies the condition:

$$\sup_{J \subset Q} \left( |J|^{-1} \int_J w(x) dx \right) \left( |J|^{-1} \int_J w(x)^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \right)^{p-1} = C_p(w) < \infty,$$

where  $J$  is a cube. The condition  $A_1$  is, by definition, the limit of  $A_p$  for  $p \rightarrow 1$ , that is to say  $w \in A_1$  if and only if

$$\sup_{J \subset Q} \left( |J|^{-1} \int_J w(x) dx \right) \left( \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in J} w(x)^{-1} \right) = C_1(w) < \infty.$$

The class  $A_\infty$  is the union  $\cup_{1 < p < \infty} A_p$ . Equivalently  $w \in A_\infty$  if and only if there exist two constants  $0 < \delta \leq 1$  and  $C > 0$  such that for every cube  $J$  and every measurable set  $E \subset J$

$$\frac{w(E)}{w(J)} \leq C \left( \frac{|E|}{|J|} \right)^\delta$$

holds. As references for the  $A_p$  classes we give [M] and [G-R].

## 2. Extrapolation

Let  $\nu$  be a weight. By  $A_p(\nu)$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , we denote the class of all pairs of weights  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that  $\alpha^p$  and  $\beta^p$  belong to  $A_p$  and  $\nu = \alpha\beta^{-1}$ . For these classes we have the following so called extrapolation theorem:

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $T$  be a sublinear operator and  $1 < q < \infty$ . If for every pair  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_q(\nu)$ ,*

$$\|Tf\|_{L^q(\beta^q)} \leq C_{\alpha\beta} \|f\|_{L^q(\alpha^q)}$$

*holds with a constant  $C_{\alpha\beta}$  depending only on  $C_q(\alpha^q)$  and  $C_q(\beta^q)$ , then*

$$\|Tf\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C_{\alpha\beta} \|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)}$$

*holds for every  $1 < p < \infty$ , provided that  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(\nu)$ .*

For the proof of this result and more references, see [S-T1], [H-M-S] and [G-R].

The following theorem deals with extrapolation from infinity:

**Theorem 2.2** *Let  $\nu$  be a given weight, and  $T$  an operator such that*

$$\|\beta Tf\|_\infty \leq c \|\beta f\|_\infty$$

*holds whenever  $\beta^{-1}$  and  $(\nu\beta)^{-1}$  belongs to  $A_1$  with a constant  $c$  depending on 3 and  $\nu$  only. Then, for  $1 < p < \infty$ ,*

$$\|Tf\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq c_p \|f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)}$$

*holds whenever the pair  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(\nu)$ , with a constant  $c_p$  depending on  $p, \alpha, \beta$  and  $\nu$  only.*

This theorem has its origin in [H-M-S] and was proved in [S-T 1]. In order to prove Theorem (2.2) we shall need a result due to J.L.Rubio de Francia and J.García Cuerva, see [G-R].

**Lemma 2.3** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive measure and  $S(u)$  an operator defined for  $u \in L^p(\mu)$ . We assume that  $S$  satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} S(u)(x) &\geq 0, \\ S(\lambda u)(x) &= |\lambda|S(u)(x), \\ S(u_1 + u_2)(x) &\leq S(u_1)(x) + S(u_2)(x) \quad \text{and} \\ \|S(u)\|_{L^p(\mu)} &\leq \|S\| \cdot \|u\|_{L^p(\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, given  $u \geq 0$  there exists  $U$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &\leq U(x), \\ \|U\|_{L^p(\mu)} &\leq 2 \|u\|_{L^p(\mu)} \quad \text{and} \\ S(U)(x) &\leq 2 \|S\| U(x). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $S^0(u) = u$  and  $S^{k+1}(u) = S(S^k(u))$ . We define

$$U(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2 \|S\|)^{-k} S^k(u)(x).$$

Then,  $u(x) \leq U(x)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \|U\|_{L^p(\mu)} &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2 \|S\|)^{-k} \|S^k(u)\|_{L^p(\mu)} \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} \right) \|u\|_{L^p(\mu)} = 2 \|u\|_{L^p(\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} S(U) &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2 \|S\|)^{-k} S^{k+1}(u) \\ &\leq 2 \|S\| \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2 \|S\|)^{-(k+1)} S^{k+1}(u) \leq 2 \|S\| U \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof of Theorem 2.2* Let  $f \in L^p(\beta^p)$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , where  $\beta^p$  and  $\alpha^p \in A^p$ ,  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = v$ . We can assume that  $\beta(x) > 0$  for every  $x$ . We define  $g(x)$  as

$$g(x) = |f(x)| \beta^{p'}(x) / \|f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \quad \text{if } f(x) \neq 0 \text{ and}$$

$$g(x) = e^{-\pi(x)^2/p} \beta(x)^{p'/p} \quad \text{otherwise.}$$

For this function  $g(x)$  we have

- a)  $g(x) > 0$  for every  $x$ ,
- b)  $\|f(x) \beta(x)^{p'} g^{-1}(x)\|_\infty = \|f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)}$  and
- c)  $\int g(x)^p \beta(x)^{-p'} dx \leq 2$ .

Let us define

$$S(h)(x) = \beta(x)^{p'} M(\beta^{-p'} h)(x) + v(x) \beta(x)^{p'} M(v^{-1} \beta^{-p'} h)(x).$$

This operator  $S$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \int S(h)(x)^p \beta^{-p'}(x) dx &= \int \beta^p [M(\beta^{-p'} h)]^p dx + \int v^p \beta^p [M(v^{-1} \beta^{-p'} h)]^p dx \\ &\leq [c_p (\beta^p)^p + c_p ((v\beta)^p)^p] \int |h|^p \beta^{-p'} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Lemma (2.3) there is a function  $G$  such that

- e)  $g(x) \leq G(x)$  a.e.,
- f)  $\int G^p \beta^{-p'} dx \leq 4$  and
- g)  $S(G)(x) \leq 2[c_p (\beta^p)^p + c_p ((v\beta)^p)^p] G(x)$  a.e.

The inequality in g) implies

- h)  $M(\beta^{-p'} G)(x) \leq c \beta^{-p'}(x) G(x)$  and
- i)  $M(v^{-1} \beta^{-p'} G)(x) \leq c v^{-1}(x) \beta(x)^{-p'} G(x)$ .

Then, by a), b) and e) we have

$$\|f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} = \|f \beta^{p'} g^{-1}\|_\infty \geq \|f \beta^{p'} G^{-1}\|_\infty.$$

On the other hand, since  $G\beta^{-p'}$  and  $v^{-1}\beta^{-p'}G$  belong to  $A_1$ , by hypothesis, we get

$$\|\beta^{p'} G^{-1} T f\|_{\infty} \leq c \|\beta^{p'} G^{-1} f\|_{\infty}.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \|T f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} &= \left( \int |T f|^p \beta^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \|\beta^{p'} G^{-1} T f\|_{\infty} \left( \int G^p \beta^{-p} dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq 4^{1/p} c \|\beta^{p'} G^{-1} f\|_{\infty} \leq 4^{1/p} c \|f\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

### 3. The sharp maximal function

We shall need the following version of the sharp maximal function:

**Definition 3.1** Let  $0 < r < \infty$  and  $Q$  a cube properly contained in  $R^n$ . Given a function  $f(x)$ ,  $x \in Q$ , we define:

$$f_r^{\#, Q}(x) = \sup_{x \in J} \left\{ \inf_{c \in R} \left( |J|^{-1} \int_J |f(y) - c|^r dy \right)^{1/r} \right\},$$

where  $J$  is any cube contained in  $Q$ . Moreover,  $f_r^{\#}(x)$  stands for the function defined above where the supremum is taken for all cubes  $J \subset R^n$ .

Then we have the following theorem:

**Theorem 3.2** Let  $c_Q$  be a constant satisfying:

$$\int_Q |f(y) - c_Q|^r dy \leq 2 \inf_{c \in R} \int_Q |f(y) - c|^r dy.$$

Then, given  $0 < p < \infty$  and  $w \in A_{\infty}$ , there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$\int_Q |f(x) - c_Q|^p w(x) dx \leq \int_Q M_r^Q(f - c_Q)(x)^p w(x) dx \leq C \int_Q [f_r^{\#, Q}(x)]^p w(x) dx$$

holds for every  $f$ . The constant  $C$  does not depend on  $Q$ .

*Proof:* It is enough to prove the theorem for the dyadic maximal function  $\tilde{M}_r^Q(f - c_Q)$  instead of  $M_r^Q(f - c_Q)$  since for  $w \in A_{\infty}$  they have equivalent  $L^p(w)$  norms, see [G-R], p.136. Let  $g = f - c_Q$ . We observe that  $f_r^{\#, Q}(x) = g_r^{\#, Q}(x)$  holds for every point  $x \in Q$ . Let  $\lambda_0^r = |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |g(x)|^r dx$

and  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ . We apply the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition to the function  $|g|^r$  with parameter  $\lambda^r$  obtaining a disjoint sequence  $\{I_k\}$  of dyadic subcubes of  $Q$  satisfying:

$$\lambda^r < |I_k|^{-1} \int_{I_k} |g(x)|^r dx \leq 2^n \lambda^r .$$

Applying again the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition to  $|g|^r$ , but this time with parameter  $3^n \lambda^r$ , we get a disjoint sequence  $\{J_h\}$  of dyadic subcubes of  $Q$  satisfying:

$$3^n \lambda^r < |J_h|^{-1} \int_{J_h} |g(x)|^r dx \leq 2^n 3^n \lambda^r .$$

We observe that every cube  $J_h$  is contained in one and only one cube  $I_k$ . Besides, we have:

$$\{x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > \lambda\} = \cup I_k \quad \text{and} \quad \{x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > 3^{n/r} \lambda\} = \cup J_h .$$

Thus, if  $J_h \subset I_k$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^r &\leq (3^n - 2^n) \lambda^r \leq |J_h|^{-1} \int_{J_h} |g(x)|^r dx - |I_k|^{-1} \int_{I_k} |g(y)|^r dy \\ &\leq |J_h|^{-1} |I_k|^{-1} \int_{J_h} \int_{I_k} \left| |g(x)|^r - |g(y)|^r \right| dx dy . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since the cubes  $J_h$  are disjoint, we get:

$$\lambda^r |I_k|^{-1} \sum_{J_h \subset I_k} |J_h| \leq |I_k|^{-2} \int_{I_k} \int_{I_k} \left| |g(x)|^r - |g(y)|^r \right| dx dy .$$

If  $0 < r \leq 1$ , then

$$\left| |g(x)|^r - |g(y)|^r \right| \leq |g(x) - g(y)|^r \leq |g(x) - c|^r + |g(y) - c|^r$$

holds for every constant  $c$ . Thus

$$\lambda^r |I_k|^{-1} \sum_{J_h \subset I_k} |J_h| \leq 2 \inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} |I_k|^{-1} \int_{I_k} |g(x) - c|^r dx \leq 2 [f_r^{\#, Q}(z)]^r$$

holds for every  $z \in I_k$ . If  $1 < r < \infty$ , since

$$\left| |g(x)|^r - |g(y)|^r \right| \leq r (|g(x) - c| + |g(y) - c|) (|g(x)|^{r-1} + |g(y)|^{r-1})$$

holds for every constant  $c$ , by Hölder's inequality, we get:

$$\lambda^r |I_k|^{-1} \sum_{J_h \subset I_k} |J_h| \leq C_r [f_r^{\#,Q}(z)] \lambda^{r-1}$$

for every  $z \in I_k$ . Then, for  $0 < r < \infty$ , if there is a point  $z \in I_k$  such that  $f_r^{\#,Q}(z) < \gamma \lambda$ , it follows that

$$|I_k|^{-1} \sum_{J_h \subset I_k} |J_h| \leq C_r \gamma^{\min(r,1)},$$

where  $C_r$  depends on  $r$  and  $n$  but not on  $Q$ . Thus we have shown that for  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$  and  $\omega \in A_\infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega \left( \left\{ x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > 3^{n/r} \lambda, f_r^{\#,Q}(x) < \gamma \lambda \right\} \right) \\ \leq C \gamma^{\delta \min(r,1)} w \left( \left\{ x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > \lambda \right\} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

holds. Here  $\delta$  is the exponent in the  $A_\infty$  condition for  $\omega$ . For  $\lambda \leq \lambda_0$ , we use the obvious estimate

$$\omega \left( \left\{ x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > 3^{n/r} \lambda \right\} \right) \leq \omega(Q).$$

Since

$$\lambda_0 = \left( |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |f(y) - c_Q|^r dy \right)^{1/r} \leq 2 f_r^{\#,Q}(x)$$

holds for every  $x \in Q$ , we get:

$$\lambda_0 \leq 2 (w(Q))^{-1} \int_Q [f_r^{\#,Q}(x)]^p w(x) dx)^{1/p}. \quad (3.4)$$

From (3.3) and (3.4), the proof of the theorem follows as usual, namely:



$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_Q \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x)^p w(x) dx \\
&= C \int_0^\infty p \lambda^{p-1} w(\{x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > 3^{n/r} \lambda\}) d\lambda \\
&\leq C \int_0^{\lambda_0} p \lambda^{p-1} d\lambda w(Q) + C \int_{\lambda_0}^\infty p \lambda^{p-1} w\left(\left\{x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > 3^{n/r} \lambda, f_r^{\#,Q}(x) < \gamma \lambda\right\}\right) d\lambda \\
&+ C \int_{\lambda_0}^\infty p \lambda^{p-1} w\left(\left\{f_r^{\#,Q}(x) > \gamma \lambda\right\}\right) \\
&\leq C w(Q) \lambda_0^p + C \gamma^{\delta \min(r,1)} \int_{\lambda_0}^\infty p \lambda^{p-1} w\left(\left\{x \in Q: \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x) > \lambda\right\}\right) \\
&+ C \int_{\lambda_0}^\infty p \lambda^{p-1} w\left(\left\{x \in Q: f_r^{\#,Q}(x) > \gamma \lambda\right\}\right) \\
&\leq C \int_Q (f_r^{\#,Q}(x))^p w(x) dx + C \gamma^{\delta \min(r,1)} \int_Q \tilde{M}_r^Q(g)(x)^p w(x) dx.
\end{aligned}$$

By taking  $\gamma$  small enough, we obtain the required inequality.  $\square$

Let  $Q \subset Q'$ , then

$$|c_Q - c_{Q'}|^p \leq 2^p |f(x) - c_Q|^p + 2^p |f(x) - c_{Q'}|^p.$$

Averaging on  $Q$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
|c_Q - c_{Q'}|^p &\leq 2^p w(Q)^{-1} \int_Q (|f(x) - c_Q|^p + |f(x) - c_{Q'}|^p) w(x) dx \\
&\leq 2^p w(Q)^{-1} \left( \int_Q |f(x) - c_Q|^p w(x) + \int_Q |f(x) - c_{Q'}|^p w(x) dx \right).
\end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 3.2, we get

$$|c_Q - c_{Q'}|^p \leq 2^p c_p w(Q)^{-1} \int f_r^{\#}(x)^p w(x) dx.$$

This shows that  $c_Q$  tends to a finite limit  $c$  when the cube  $Q$  increases to  $R^n$ . Moreover,

$$|c_Q - c|^p w(Q) \leq 2^p c_p w(Q)^{-1} \int f_r^{\#}(x)^p w(x) dx.$$

Since

$$M_r^Q(f - c)(x) \leq 2 M_r^Q(f - c_Q)(x) + 2|c_Q - c|,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_Q M_r^Q(f-c)(x)^p w(x) dx &\leq 2^p \int_Q M_r^Q(f-c_Q)(x)^p w(x) dx + 2^p |c_Q - c|^p w(Q)w(Q) \\ &\leq 2 \cdot 2^p c_p \int f_r^\#(x)^p w(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\int M_r(f-c)(x)^p w(x) dx \leq c_p' \int f_r^\#(x)^p w(x) dx.$$

If in addition we assume that  $w(\{x: |f(x)| > \lambda\})$  is finite for every  $\lambda > 0$ , it turns out that  $c=0$ . Thus we have proved the following theorem:

**Theorem 3.5** *Let  $w \in A_\infty$ . Then, for  $0 < p < \infty$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} \int |f(x) - c|^p w(x) dx &\leq \int M_r(f-c)(x)^p w(x) dx \\ &\leq c_{p,r} \int f_r^\#(x)^p w(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

*holds with a constant  $c_{p,r}$  depending on  $p, r$  and  $w$  only. If in addition we assume that  $w(\{x: |f(x)| > \lambda\})$  is finite for every  $\lambda > 0$  then  $c$  is equal to zero.*

## 4. B.M.O Spaces

Next we shall consider some B.M.O. spaces that are both relevant and natural in the theory of commutators.

**Definition 4.1** *Let  $v$  be a weight and  $0 < s < \infty$ . We shall say that a function  $a$  belongs to the class  $BMO(v, s)$  if there exists a finite constant  $C$  such that for every cube  $Q$ :*

$$\inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \int_Q |a(x) - c|^s dx \leq C \int_Q v(x)^s dx.$$

*The smallest such constant  $C$  is denoted by  $\|a\|_{*,v,s}^s$ .*

Next we shall apply Theorem 3.2 to derive some properties of the classes  $BMO(v, s)$ , which we believe have an independent interest.

**Proposition 4.2** *If  $a \in BMO(v,s)$ , and  $r > s$  then  $a \in BMO(v,r)$ . If  $r < s$  and  $v^s \in A_\infty$ , then  $a \in BMO(v,s)$ , implies that  $a \in BMO(v,r)$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $a_Q$  satisfy

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^s dx \leq 2 \inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \int_Q |a(x) - c|^s dx.$$

Then by Theorem 3.2 and the definition of  $BMO(v,s)$ , we have:

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r dx \leq C \int_Q [a_s^{\#,Q}(x)]^r dx \leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \int_Q [M_1^Q(v^s)(x)]^{r/s} dx,$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $Q$ . if  $r > s$ , by the Hardy-Littlewood maximal theorem it follows that

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r dx \leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \int_Q v(x)^r dx.$$

If  $v^s \in A_\infty$  and  $r > s$ , there exists  $p$  such that  $rp/s > 1$  and  $v^p \in A_\infty$ . This implies (see [S-W]) that  $v^r$  satisfies a reverse Hölder's inequality with exponent  $p$ . Thus, by Hölder's inequality and the Hardy-Littlewood maximal theorem, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r dx &\leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \int_Q [M_1^Q(v^s)(x)]^{r/s} dx \\ &\leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \left( \int_Q [M_1^Q(v^s)(x)]^{rp/s} dx \right)^{1/p} |Q|^{1/p'} \quad \square \\ &\leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \left( \int_Q v(x)^{rp} dx \right)^{1/p} |Q|^{1/p'} \leq C \|a\|_{*,v,s}^r \left( \int_Q v(x)^r dx \right) \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 4.3** *Let  $a \in BMO(v,r)$ , let  $Q$  be a cube and let  $k$  be a positive integer. If for every integer  $h$  such that  $0 \leq h \leq k$ ,  $a_{2^h Q}$  is a number satisfying:*

$$\int_{2^h Q} |a(x) - a_{2^h Q}|^r dx \leq 2 \inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{2^h Q} |a(x) - c|^r dx,$$

*then:*

$$|a_Q - a_{2^h Q}|^r \leq C_r k^r \|a\|_{*,v,r}^r \max_{0 \leq h \leq k} \left( |2^h Q|^{-1} \int_{2^h Q} v(x)^r dx \right).$$

*Proof:* We have

$$|a_Q - a_{2^k Q}| \leq \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} |a_{2^h Q} - a_{2^{h+1} Q}|.$$

Since

$$|a_{2^h Q} - a_{2^{h+1} Q}|^r \leq 2^r (|a_{2^h Q} - a(x)|^r + |a(x) - a_{2^{h+1} Q}|^r),$$

we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{2^h Q} - a_{2^{h+1} Q}| &\leq 2^{\frac{1}{r}+1} \left( |2^h Q|^{-1} \int_{2^h Q} |a(x) - a_{2^h Q}|^r dx \right)^{1/r} \\ &\quad + 2^{\frac{n+1}{r}+1} \left( |2^{h+1} Q|^{-1} \int_{2^{h+1} Q} |a(x) - a_{2^{h+1} Q}|^r dx \right)^{1/r}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$|a_Q - a_{2^k Q}|^r \leq C_r k^r \|a\|_{s, v, r}^r \max_{0 \leq h \leq k} \left( |2^h Q|^{-1} \int_{2^h Q} v(x)^r dx \right),$$

as we wanted to show.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.4** *Let  $a \in BMO(v, r)$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}, \beta^{-1} \in A_1$ , and  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = v^r$ . Then, if  $s$  is such that  $1 \leq s < \infty$  and  $\alpha^s, \beta^s \in A_1$ , we have:*

$$|Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(y) - a_Q|^{rs} \alpha(y)^{-s} dy \leq C \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in Q} \beta(x)^{-s},$$

for any constant  $a_Q$  satisfying:

$$\int_Q |a(y) - a_Q|^r dy \leq 2 \inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \int_Q |a(y) - c|^r dy,$$

where  $C$  is finite and independent of  $Q$ .

*Proof:* By Jensen's inequality, we may assume  $s > 1$ . We have:

$$\int_Q |a(y) - a_Q|^{rs} \alpha(y)^{-s} dy \leq \int_Q M_r^Q(a - a_Q)(y)^{rs} \alpha(y)^{-s} dy.$$

Then by theorem 3.2, we get:

$$\int_Q M_r^Q (a - a_Q)(y)^{rs} \alpha(y)^{-s} dy \leq C \int_Q [a_r^{\#,Q}(y)]^{rs} a(y)^{-s} dy. \quad (4.5)$$

Since by definition of  $BMO(v,r)$  we have, for  $y \in Q$  :

$$a_r^{\#,Q}(y) \leq CM_r^Q(v)(y) = C(M_1^Q(v^r)(y))^{1/r},$$

we see that the second member of (4.5) is bounded by:

$$C \int_Q M_1^Q(v^r)(y)^s \alpha(y)^{-s} dy \leq C \int_Q v(y)^{rs} \alpha(y)^{-s} dy = C \int_Q \beta(y)^{-s} dy.$$

Thus, by our assumption that  $\beta^{-s} \in A_p$ , the conclusion of the lemma holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.6** *Let  $1 < p < \infty$ . Suppose that  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v)$  and  $a \in BMO(v,r)$ , then with  $a_Q$  as before:*

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{rps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx \leq C \int_Q \alpha(x)^{ps} dx$$

holds for all  $s \geq 1$ , such that  $\beta^{sp} \in A_\infty$ .

*Proof:* Since  $|a(x) - a_Q| \leq M_r^Q(a - a_Q)(x)$ , a.e. for  $x \in Q$ , we have:

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{rps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx \leq \int_Q M_r^Q(a - a_Q)(x)^{rps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx.$$

By theorem 3.2, the last integral is bounded by constant times

$$\int_Q [a_r^{\#,Q}(x)]^{rps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx,$$

and, by definition of the class  $BMO(v,r)$ , this integral is bounded by constant times

$$\int_Q M_1^Q(v^r)(x)^{ps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx \leq C \int_Q v(x)^{rps} \beta(x)^{ps} dx = C \int_Q \alpha(x)^{ps} dx. \quad \square$$

## 5. The commutator of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function

We define commutator of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function as follows:

Given a function  $a(x)$  and  $0 < r < \infty$

$$C_a^r(f)(x) = \sup_{x \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a(y)|^r |f(y)| dy,$$

where  $Q$  denotes a cube.

The  $L^p$  estimates needed for  $C_a^r(f)$  are a consequence of the estimates for a smooth variant of  $C_a^r(f)$ : Let  $\phi(x) \geq 0$  be a smooth and rapidly decreasing function and  $\phi_\epsilon(x) = \epsilon^{-n} \phi(x/\epsilon)$ . For  $0 < r < \infty$ , we define

$$\Phi_a^r(f)(r) = \sup_{\epsilon > 0} \int_{R^n} |a(x) - a(y)|^r \phi_\epsilon(x-y) |f(y)| dy.$$

These operators  $C_a^r$  and  $\Phi_a^r$  have been studied in [S-T 2] and [S-T 3] for integral values of  $r$ .

Now we are ready to state the results on  $C_a^r(f)$  and  $\Phi_a^r(f)$ .

**Theorem 5.1** *Given a weight  $v$  and a function  $a$  in  $BMO(v, r)$ ,  $0 < r < \infty$ , then the operator  $\Phi_a^r$  is bounded from  $L^p(\alpha^p)$  to  $L^p(\beta^p)$  provided  $(\alpha, \beta)$  belongs to  $A_p(v^r)$  and  $1 < p < \infty$ .*

**Theorem 5.2** *Let  $v$  be a weight such that  $v^r \in A_2$ . Then, the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i) *For some  $p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , the operator  $C_a^r$  is bounded from  $L^p(\alpha^p)$  to  $L^p(\beta^p)$  provided  $(\alpha, \beta)$  belongs to  $A_p(v^r)$ .*
- (ii) *For every  $p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , the operator  $C_a^r$  is bounded from  $L^p(\alpha^p)$  to  $L^p(\beta^p)$  provided  $(\alpha, \beta)$  belongs to  $A_p(v^r)$ .*
- (iii)  *$a$  belongs to  $BMO(v, r)$ .*

We begin by proving a lemma on weights that shall be needed.

**Lemma 5.3** *Let  $r = r_1 + r_2$ ,  $r_i > 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$  and  $1 \leq p < \infty$ . If  $\alpha^p$  and  $\beta^p$  belong to  $A_p$  and  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = v^r$ , then  $\gamma = \alpha^{r_2/r} \beta^{r_1/r}$  satisfies:*

- (i)  $\gamma^p$  belongs to  $A_p$  and
- (ii)  $\alpha\gamma^{-1} = v^{r_1}$  and  $\gamma\beta^{-1} = v^{r_2}$ .

*Proof:* If  $1 < p < \infty$ , by Hölder's inequality, we have:

$$\left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \gamma^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \alpha^p dx \right)^{r/2} \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \beta^p dx \right)^{r/2}$$

and

$$\left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \gamma^{-p'} dx \right)^{1/p'} \leq \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \alpha^{-p'} dx \right)^{r/2} \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \beta^{-p'} dx \right)^{r/2}.$$

By multiplying these two inequalities we get that  $\gamma^p \in A_p$ . If  $p = 1$ , the proof is even simpler.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 5.1:* First of all, we observe that if there is a pair of weights  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v^r)$ , then  $v^r \in A_2 \subset A_\infty$  (see [S-T 1]). Thus, if  $r \geq 1$ , by Proposition 4.2,  $a \in BMO(v, r)$  is equivalent to  $a \in BMO(v, 1)$ . We shall estimate the sharp maximal function of the following auxiliary maximal function: Let  $N > 0$ , then set

$$\Phi_{a, N}^r(f)(x) = \sup_{0 < \epsilon < N} \int_{R^n} |a(x) - a(y)|^r \phi_\epsilon(x-y) |f(y)| dy.$$

Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be a cube and  $x_0 \in \mathcal{Q}$ . Let  $a_{\mathcal{Q}}$  be a number satisfying

$$\int_{\mathcal{Q}} |a(x) - a_{\mathcal{Q}}|^r dx \leq 2 \inf_{c \in R} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |a(x) - c|^r dx,$$

and

$$c_{\mathcal{Q}} = \sup_{0 < \epsilon < N} |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( \int_{R^n} |a(y) - a_{\mathcal{Q}}|^r \phi_\epsilon(z-y) |f(y)| \chi_{R^n \setminus 4\mathcal{Q}}(y) dy \right) dz.$$

Then, for  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\Phi_{a,N}^r(f)(x) - c_Q| \\
& \leq \sup_{\epsilon > 0} \left| \int_{R^n} |a(x) - a(y)|^r \phi_\epsilon(x-y) |f(y)| dy \right. \\
& \quad \left. - |Q|^{-1} \int_Q \left( \int_{R^n} |a(y) - a_Q|^r \phi_\epsilon(z-y) |f(y)| \chi_{R^n \setminus 4Q}(y) dy \right) dz \right| \\
& \leq \sup_{\epsilon > 0} \int_{R^n} \left| |a(x) - a(y)|^r - |a(y) - a_Q|^r \right| \phi_\epsilon(x-y) |f(y)| dy \\
& \quad + \sup_{\epsilon > 0} \int_{R^n} |a(y) - a_Q|^r \phi_\epsilon(x-y) |f(y)| \chi_{4Q}(y) dy \\
& \quad + \sup_{\epsilon > 0} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q \left( \int_{R^n} |a(y) - a_Q|^r |\phi_\epsilon(x-y) - \phi_\epsilon(z-y)| |f(y)| \chi_{R^n \setminus 4Q}(y) dy \right) dz \\
& = A_1^Q(x) + A_2^Q(x) + A_3^Q(x).
\end{aligned}$$

Let us consider first the term  $A_3^Q(x)$ . Since  $x, x_0, z \in Q$  and  $y \notin 4Q$ , the mean value theorem can be used to obtain:

$$\sup_{\epsilon > 0} |\phi_\epsilon(x-y) - \phi_\epsilon(z-y)| \leq C\delta / |x_0 - y|^{m+1},$$

where  $\delta$  is the sidelength of  $Q$ . Therefore:

$$A_3^Q(x) \leq C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} 2^k |Q|^{-1} \int_{2^k Q} |a(y) - a_Q|^r |f(y)| dy.$$

Thus, if we define

$$\sigma_3(f)(x_0) = \sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q A_3^Q(x) dx,$$

we get:

$$\sigma_3(f)(x_0) \leq C \sup_{x_0 \in Q} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} 2^k |Q|^{-1} \int_{2^k Q} |a(y) - a_Q|^r |f(y)| dy.$$

We shall show that Theorem 2.2 applies to  $\sigma_3$ . Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be two weights such that  $\alpha^{-1}, \beta^{-1} \in A_1$  and  $\alpha\beta = v^r$ . Then



$$\begin{aligned}
& |2^k Q|^{-1} \int_{2^k Q} |a(y) - a_Q|^r |f(y)| dy \\
& \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty |2^k Q|^{-1} \int_{2^k Q} |a(y) - a_{2^k Q}|^r \alpha(x)^{-1} dy \\
& + C \|f\alpha\|_\infty |a_Q - a_{2^k Q}|^r |2^k Q|^{-1} \int_{2^k Q} \alpha(x)^{-1} dy.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 4.4 the first term is bounded by  $C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1}$ . Since  $\alpha^{-1} \in A_1$ , Proposition 4.3 implies that the second term above is bounded by:

$$C \|f\alpha\|_\infty k^r \max_{0 \leq h \leq k} \left( |2^h Q|^{-1} \int_{2^h Q} v(y)^r dy \right) \inf_{v \in \mathcal{E}_q^k} \alpha(y)^{-1} \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty k^r \beta(x_0)^{-1}.$$

After adding up in  $k$ , we obtain

$$\sigma_3(f)(x_0) \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1}.$$

Let us consider next the term  $A_2^Q(x)$ . We have:

$$A_2^Q(x) \leq CM(|a - a_Q|^r |f| \chi_{4Q})(x).$$

Thus, defining  $\sigma_2(f)(x_0)$  by

$$\sigma_2(f)(x_0) = \sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q A_2^Q(x) dx,$$

we can write:

$$\sigma_2(f)(x_0) \leq C \sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q M(|a - a_Q|^r |f| \chi_{4Q})(x) dx.$$

We shall show that the extrapolation Theorem 2.2 can also be applied to  $\sigma_2$ . Let  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $v$  as before. Then, for  $s > 1$ , but close enough to 1,

$$|Q|^{-1} \int_Q M(|a - a_Q|^r |f| \chi_{4Q})(x) dx \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \left( |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{rs} \alpha(x)^{-s} dx \right)^{1/s}.$$

Arguing as in the case of  $\sigma_3$  for  $k=2$ , we obtain:

$$\sigma_2(f)(x_0) \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1}.$$

Finally, we consider the term  $A_1^Q(x)$ . Here, we shall distinguish two cases:  $0 < r \leq 1$  and  $1 < r < \infty$ . In the first case, we have:

$$\left| |a(x) - a(y)|^r - |a(y) - a_Q|^r \right| \leq |a(x) - a_Q|^r.$$

Thus,

$$A_1^Q(x) \leq |a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f) |f(x)|.$$

Then, defining

$$\sigma_1(f)(x_0) = \sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q A_1^Q(x) dx,$$

we get

$$\sigma_1(f)(x_0) \leq C \sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f)(x) dx.$$

We shall show that  $\sigma_1$  satisfies the conditions for extrapolation in Theorem 2.2. Let  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\nu$  be as before. Then since  $\|\alpha M(f)\|_\infty \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty$ , we obtain

$$\int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f)(x) dx \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r \alpha(x)^{-1} dx.$$

Thus, by Lemma 4.4, it follows that

$$\sigma_1(f)(x_0) \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1}.$$

For the case  $1 < r < \infty$ , we use the inequality

$$\left| |a(x) - a(y)|^r - |a(y) - a_Q|^r \right| \leq C_r (|a(x) - a_Q|^r + |a(x) - a_Q| |a(x) - a(y)|^{r-1}).$$

Thus,

$$A_1^Q(x) \leq C (|a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f)(x) + |a(x) - a_Q| \Phi_a^{r-1}(f)(x)).$$

By averaging  $A_1^Q(x)$  over  $Q$ , we get:

$$\sup_{x_0 \in Q} |Q|^{-1} \int_Q A_1^Q(x) dx \leq C \sup_{x_0 \in Q} \left( |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f)(x) dx \right) \\ + C \sup_{x_0 \in Q} \left( |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q| \Phi_a^{r-1}(f)(x) dx \right) = C(\sigma_{11}(f)(x_0) + \sigma_{12}(\Phi_a^{r-1}(f))(x_0)).$$

We can deal with  $\sigma_{11}$  as we did with  $\sigma_1$  in the case  $0 < r \leq 1$ , obtaining

$$\sigma_{11}(f)(x_0) \leq C \|f\alpha\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1}.$$

As for  $\sigma_{12}$ , we observe that it coincides with  $\sigma_1$  in case  $r = 1$ , therefore

$$\sigma_{12}(g)(x_0) \leq C \|g\gamma\|_\infty \beta(x_0)^{-1},$$

if  $\gamma\beta^{-1} = \nu$ .

We have shown that all the  $\sigma$ 's defined can be extrapolated from infinity. Thus, for  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $0 < r \leq 1$ , we get:

$$\|\Phi_{a,N}^r(f)\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C \|(\Phi_{a,N}^r(f))^\#\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C \sum_{i=1}^3 \|\sigma_i(f)\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)},$$

whenever  $\alpha^p, \beta^p \in A_p$  and  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = \nu$ , provided  $\Phi_{a,N}^r(f) \in L^p(\beta^p)$ . For  $1 < r < \infty$ , let  $\gamma$  be the weight given in Lemma 5.3 with  $r_2 = 1, r_1 = r - 1$ . Then, since

$$(\Phi_{a,N}^r(f))^\#(x_0) \leq C(\sigma_{11}(f)(x_0) + \sigma_{12}(\Phi_a^{r-1}(f))(x_0) + \sigma_2(f)(x_0) + \sigma_3(f)(x_0)),$$

we get

$$\|(\Phi_{a,N}^r(f))^\#\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C(\|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)} + \|\Phi_a^{r-1}(f)\|_{L^p(\gamma^p)}).$$

If we assume that the theorem holds for  $\Phi_a^{r-1}$ , then

$$\|(\Phi_{a,N}^r(f))^\#\|_{L^p(\beta^p)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)}.$$

In order to complete the proof of the theorem, we shall show that the Fefferman-Stein theorem 3.5 on the sharp maximal function can be applied if  $f$  is a bounded function with compact support. We observe that in this case  $\Phi_{a,N}^r(f)$  is also a function with compact support. This was the main reason

for introducing  $\Phi_{a,N}^r$ . Let  $Q$  be a cube containing the supports of both  $f$  and  $\Phi_{a,N}^r(f)$ . Then

$$\int_Q \Phi_{a,N}^r(f)(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^r M(f)(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx \\ + C \int_Q M(|a - a_Q|^r |f|)(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx.$$

Then  $\Phi_{a,N}^r(f) \in L^p(\beta^p)$ . Thus, if  $0 < r \leq 1$ ,

$$\int_{R^n} \Phi_{a,N}^r(f)(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} \Phi_{a,N}^r(f)^\#(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)}^p,$$

where the constant  $C$  does not depend on  $N$ . Since  $\Phi_{a,N}^r(f)(x)$  tends to  $\Phi_a^r(f)(x)$  point-wisely as  $N$  tends to  $\infty$ . Fatou's lemma gives us:

$$\left( \int_{R^n} [\Phi_a^r(f)(x)]^p \beta(x)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\alpha^p)}$$

for every  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v^r)$ . This finishes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 5.2:* Let us show that (i) implies (ii). Since the classes  $A_p(v^r)$  allow extrapolation (see [S-T 1]), if the operator  $C_a^r$  is bounded from  $L^p(\alpha^p)$  to  $L^p(\beta^p)$  for every pair  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v^r)$ , for a given value of  $p$ , then by Theorem 2.1, the same is true for any  $p$  such that  $1 < p < \infty$ . Let us prove that (ii) implies (iii). Since  $v^r \in A_2$  (otherwise the classes  $A_p(v^r)$  are empty, see [S-T 1]) we can factor  $v^r = v_1 v_2^{-1}$  with  $v_i \in A_1$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . If  $\alpha = (v_1 v_2^{-1})^{1/2}$  and  $\beta = (v_2 v_1^{-1})^{1/2}$ , then  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_2(v^r)$ . We observe that  $\alpha = \beta^{-1}$  and  $\alpha^2 = v^r$ . We have

$$\inf_{c \in R} \int_Q |a(x) - c|^r dx \leq \inf_{y \in Q} \int_Q |a(x) - a(y)|^r dx \\ \leq |Q|^{-1} \int_Q \int_Q |a(x) - a(y)|^r dx dy \\ \leq \left( \int_Q \left( |Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a(y)|^r dy \right)^2 \beta(x)^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_Q \alpha(x)^2 dx \right)^{1/2}.$$

Since for  $x \in Q$

$$|Q|^{-1} \int_Q |a(x) - a(y)|^r dy \leq C_a^r (\chi_Q)(x),$$

we get

$$\inf_{c \in R} \int_Q |a(x) - c|^r dx \leq \left( \int_Q C_a^r (\chi_Q(x))^2 \beta(x)^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_Q v(x)^r dx \right)^{1/2}$$

Then, since we are assuming that (ii) holds, we get:

$$\inf_{c \in R} \int_Q |a(x) - c|^r dx \leq C \int_Q v(x)^r dx,$$

as we wanted to show. Finally, in order to prove that (iii) implies (i), we choose  $\phi$ , a rapidly decreasing function such that  $\chi_{\{|x| \leq 2\}} \leq \phi$ . Then,  $C_a^r(f)(x) \leq C \Phi_a^r(f)(x)$ , and consequently, (iii) implies (i) by Theorem 5.2  $\square$

## 6. Commutators of singular and Strongly singular integral operators

Given a positive real number  $b$  and a smooth radial cut-off function  $\theta(x)$  supported in the ball  $\{x: |x| \leq 2\}$ , we consider the strongly singular kernel:

$$k(x) = \frac{e^{i|x|^h}}{|x|^n} \theta(x).$$

Let us denote by  $Tf$  the corresponding singular integral operator:

$$Tf(x) = p.v. \int_{R^n} k(x-y) f(y) dy.$$

This operator has been studied by several authors. Among others, we mention I. Hirschman [H], S. Wainger [W], C. Fefferman and E.M. Stein [F-S] and S. Chanillo [C]. In particular, S. Chanillo developed the weighted  $L^p$  theory using as a basic tool a result stated as Lemma 2.1 in [C, p.82]. For the commutator of the Hilbert transform, we mention R. Coifman, R. Rochberg and Guido Weiss [C-R-W] for the unweighted case, and

S.Bloom [B], who introduced the classes of weights we shall be dealing with. The case of general singular integrals with extrapolation methods was considered by C.Segovia and J.L.Torrea in [S-T 1] and [S-T 2].

Our purpose is to obtain weighted  $L^p$  estimates with pairs of weights for commutators of the strongly singular integral operator  $T$ . More precisely, we define the commutator of order  $m, m$  a positive integer, with a function  $a(x)$  as:

$$T_a^m(f)(x) = p.v. \int_{R^n} (a(x) - a(y))^m k(x-y) f(y) dy.$$

We shall reduce the study of this commutator to that of the commutator of fractional order  $C_a^r(f)$  of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator defined in §5. More precisely, our technique consists in controlling the sharp maximal function of the commutator of the operator  $T$  by the commutator of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function. This type of argument can also be applied to commutators of standard singular integrals and fractional integrals, providing proofs which we believe are simpler than those obtained before.

Now we are ready to state our results

**Theorem 6.1** *Let  $a(x)$  be a locally integrable function. For any number  $r$  such that  $1 < r < \infty$ , there exists a constant  $C_r$  such that*

$$(T_a^m(f))^\#(x_0) \leq C_r \left\{ \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} M(C_a^{m-h}(T_a^h(f)))(x_0) + [M] c_a^{mr} (|f|^r)(x_0) \right\}^{1/r}$$

holds for every  $f \in C_0^\infty(R^n)$ , almost everywhere in  $x_0 \in R^n$ .

**Theorem 6.2** *Let  $a \in BMO(v, 1)$ . Then, the commutator  $T_a^m$  is a bounded operator from  $L^p(\alpha^p)$  to  $L^p(\beta^p)$  provided  $(\alpha, \beta)$  belongs to  $A_p(v^m)$  and  $1 < p < \infty$ .*

*Proof of Theorem 6.1:* Our purpose is to estimate  $(T_a^m(f))^\#(x_0), x_0 \in R^n$ . Let  $Q$  be a cube with sidelength  $\delta$ , such that  $x_0 \in Q$ . Let  $\delta_0$  be a number satisfying  $4\delta_0 = \delta_0^{1/1+b}$ . Obviously,  $\delta_0 < 1$ . Let us consider the case  $\delta < \delta_0$ . Let  $\tilde{Q}$  be another cube with the same center as  $Q$  but with sidelength  $\delta^{1/1+b}$ .

We decompose  $f$  as  $f = f_1 + f_2 + f_3$ , where  $f_1 = f\chi_{4Q}$ ,  $f_2 = f\chi_{\bar{Q}\setminus 4Q}$  and  $f_3 = f\chi_{R^n\setminus\bar{Q}}$ . Since

$$(m_Q a - a(y))^m = \sum_{h=0}^m \binom{m}{h} (m_Q a - a(x))^{m-h} (a(x) - a(y))^h,$$

we have:

$$\begin{aligned} T_a^m(f)(x) &= - \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} \binom{m}{h} (m_Q a - a(x))^{m-h} T_a^h(f)(x) \\ &\quad + \int_{R^n} (m_Q a - a(y))^m k(x-y) f(y) dy, \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

where  $T_a^0(f) = Tf$ . We define

$$c_Q = |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( \int_{R^n} (m_Q a - a(y))^m k(z-y) f_3(y) dy \right) dz.$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} &|\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |T_a^m(f)(x) - c_Q| dx \\ &\leq C \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |m_Q a - a(x)|^{m-h} |T_a^h(f)(x)| dx \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^2 |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left| \int_{R^n} (m_Q a - a(y))^m k(x-y) f_i(y) dy \right| dx \\ &\quad + |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left| \int_{R^n} (m_Q a - a(y))^m [k(x-y) - k(z-y)] f_3(y) dy \right| dz \right) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

Then terms under the first summation sign are bounded by:

$$|\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |a(z) - a(x)|^{m-h} |T_a^h f(x)| dx \right) dz \leq M \left( C_a^{m-h} (T_a^h f) \right) (x_0), x_0 \in \mathcal{Q}.$$

The integral in (6.4) involving  $f_1$  is bounded by:

$$|\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |T((m_Q - a)^m f_1)(x)| dx \leq \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} |T((m_Q - a)^m f_1)(x)|^r dx \right)^{1/r}, 1 < r < \infty,$$

and, by the  $L^p$  boundedness of  $T$  with respect to Lebesgue measure, this is bounded by:

$$\begin{aligned} & C \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{4\mathcal{Q}} |m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(x)|^{mr} |f(x)|^r dx \right)^{1/r} \\ & \leq C \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{4\mathcal{Q}} |a(z) - a(y)|^{mr} |f(x)|^r dx \right) dz \right)^{1/r} \\ & \leq C \left[ M(C_a^{mr}(|f|^r))(x_0) \right]^{1/r} \end{aligned}$$

As for the integral in (6.4) involving  $f_2$ , we decompose it as the sum of two terms like in [C], p.88, obtaining:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y))^m k(x-y) f_2(y) dy = \\ & \int \frac{e^{i|x-y|^{-h}} \theta(x-y)}{|x-y|^{n(2+b)/r'}} \left( \frac{1}{|x-y|^{n(1-(2+b)/r')}} - \frac{1}{|x_0-y|^{n(1-(2+b)/r')}} \right) (m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y))^m f_2(y) dy \\ & + \int \frac{e^{i|x-y|^{-b}} \theta(x-y)}{|x-y|^{n(2+b)/r'}} \frac{(m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y))^m f_2(y)}{|x_0-y|^{n(1-(2+b)/r')}} dy = A(x) + B(x), \end{aligned}$$

where  $r$  is taken so close to 1 as to guarantee that  $2+b < r'$ . The term  $A(x)$  is bounded in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} |A(x)| & \leq C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} (2^{-k} \delta)^{-n} \int_{|y-x_0| \leq 2^{k+1} \delta} |m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y)|^m |f(y)| dy \\ & \leq C |\mathcal{Q}|^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} dz \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} (2^k \delta)^{-n} \int_{|y-x| \leq 2^{k+2} \delta} |a(z) - a(y)|^m |f(y)| dy \right) \\ & \leq CM(C_a^m(f))(x_0). \end{aligned}$$

For  $B$  we get, following Chanillo's argument:



$$\begin{aligned}
|Q|^{-1} \int_Q |B(x)| dx &\leq C |Q|^{-1/r'} \left( \int_{R^n} \frac{|m_Q a - a(y)|^{mr} |f_2(y)|^r}{|y - x_0|^{nr(1-(2+b)/r')}} dy \right)^{1/r} \\
&\leq C |Q|^{-1/r'} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{k_0} (2^k \delta)^{(r-1)(1+b)n} (2^k \delta)^{-n} \int_{|y-x_0| < 2^{k+1} \delta} |m_Q a - a(y)|^{mr} |f(y)|^r dy \right)^{1/r},
\end{aligned}$$

where  $k_0$  satisfies  $2^{k_0} \delta < \delta^{\frac{1}{1+b}} \leq 2^{k_0+1} \delta$ . Thus we arrive at:

$$|Q|^{-1} \int_Q |B(x)| dx \leq C \left[ M(C_a^{mr} (|f|^r)) \right]^{1/r} (x_0).$$

Let us consider now the integral in (6.4) involving  $f_3$ . It follows from the mean value theorem and the boundedness of the support of  $k$  that for  $x \in Q, z \in Q$  and  $y \in R^n \setminus \tilde{Q}$  there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$|k(x-y) - k(z-y)| \leq C \delta / |y-z|^{n+b+1}.$$

Therefore, the integral in (6.4) involving  $f_3$  is bounded by:

$$\begin{aligned}
&C |Q|^{-1} \int_Q \left( \delta \int_{|y-x_0| > (1/2)\delta}^{1/(1+b)} |m_Q a - a(y)|^m |y-z|^{-(n+b+1)} |f(y)| dy \right) dz \\
&\leq C |Q|^{-1} \int_Q \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-k} (2^k \delta)^{\frac{-n}{1+b}} \int_{|y-z| < 2(2^k \delta)}^{1/(1+b)} |m_Q a - a(y)|^m |f(y)| dy \right) dz \\
&\leq CM(C_a^m(f))(x_0).
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, if  $\delta \geq \delta_0$  we do not subtract the constant  $c_Q$ . To estimate the averages of the terms under the summation sign in (6.3) we proceed as above. As for the average of the last term we observe that, for  $\gamma = 4\delta_0^{-1}, x \in Q$  and  $y \notin \gamma Q$  we have  $|x - y| > 2$ . Therefore, if we write  $f = f\chi_{\gamma Q} + f\chi_{R^n \setminus \gamma Q}$ , only the first term in this sum can contribute anything to this average, which is consequently bounded by

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \mathcal{Q}^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left| \int_{\gamma_{\mathcal{Q}}} (m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y))^m k(x-y) f(y) dy \right| dx \right. \\
& \leq C \left( \left| \mathcal{Q}^{-1} \int_{\gamma_{\mathcal{Q}}} (m_{\mathcal{Q}} a - a(y))^{mr} |f(y)|^r dy \right| \right)^{1/r} \\
& \leq C \left( \left| \mathcal{Q}^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \left( \left| \mathcal{Q}^{-1} \int_{\gamma_{\mathcal{Q}}} |a(z) - a(y)|^{mr} |f(y)|^r dy \right) dz \right) \right| \right)^{1/r} \\
& \leq C \left[ M(C_a^{mr} (|f|^r))(x_0) \right]^{1/r}.
\end{aligned}$$

Collecting our estimates, we have shown that

$$(T_a^m(f))^\#(x_0) \leq C \left\{ \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} M(C_a^{m-h} (T_a^h f))(x_0) + [M(C_a^{mr} (|f|^r))(x_0)]^{1/r} \right\},$$

for any  $r$  such that  $1 < r < \infty$ , and this completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 6.2:* We shall assume that Theorem 5.2 holds. By Proposition 4.2  $a \in BMO(v, mr)$  for any  $r > 1$ . If  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v^m)$  then  $(\alpha^r, \beta^r) \in A_{p/r}(v^{mr})$  for  $r > 1$  and close enough to 1. Indeed, let  $r$  be such that  $1 < r < p$  and  $\alpha^r, \beta^r \in A_{p/r}$ , then  $\alpha^r \beta^{-r} = v^{mr}$  and  $(\alpha^r)^{p/r}, (\beta^r)^{p/r} \in A_{p/r}$ . For this choice of  $r$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{R^n} \left[ M(C_a^{mr} (|f|^r)) \right]^{p/r} \beta(x)^p dx \\
& = \int_{R^n} \left[ M(C_a^{mr} (|f|^r)) \right]^{p/r} [\beta(x)^r]^{p/r} dx \leq C \int_{R^n} [C_a^{mr} (|f|^r)(x)]^{p/r} [\beta(x)^r]^{p/r} dx.
\end{aligned}$$

Then, applying Theorem 5.2, this is bounded by

$$\int_{R^n} (|f|^r)^{p/r} (\alpha^r)^{p/r} dx = \int_{R^n} |f|^p \alpha^p dx.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 5.3, taking  $r_1 = h$  and  $r_2 = m-h$ , there exist  $\gamma_h$  such that  $(\gamma_h, \beta) \in A_p(v^{m-h})$  and  $(\alpha, \gamma_h) \in A_p(v^h)$ . Thus, again by Theorem 5.2

$$\int_{R^n} M(C_a^{m-h}(T_a^h(f)))(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx$$

$$\leq C \int_{R^n} C_a^{m-h}(T_a^h(f))(x)^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} |T_a^h(f)(x)|^p \gamma_h(x)^p dx.$$

If in Theorem 6.1 we take  $m = 1$ , then  $h = 0$  and  $\gamma_0 = \alpha$ , thus by the weighted  $L^p$  estimates for  $T$  due to S. Chanillo [C], we get

$$\int_{R^n} [T_a^m(f)^\#(x)]^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} |f(x)|^p \alpha(x)^p dx.$$

Assuming that we can apply the Fefferman-Stein theorem on the sharp maximal function, the last inequality would imply

$$\int_{R^n} |T_a^1(f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} |f(x)|^p \alpha(x)^p dx,$$

which proves the theorem for  $m = 1$ . By induction on  $m$  and the arguments given above, the theorem follows for every  $m$ , provided that the conditions required to apply the aforementioned Fefferman-Stein theorem are fulfilled. Let  $f$  be a bounded function with compact support. Since the kernel  $k$  has also compact support the same happens for the function  $T_a^m(f)$ . Let  $Q$  be a cube containing the supports of both  $f$  and  $T_a^m(f)$ . Then, since

$$(a(y) - a_Q)^m = \sum_{h=0}^m \binom{m}{h} (a(y) - a(x))^h (a(x) - a_Q)^{m-h},$$

we have

$$T_a^m(f)(x) \leq C \sum_{h=1}^{m-1} |a(x) - a_Q|^{m-h} |T_a^h(f)(x)|$$

$$+ |a(x) - a_Q|^m |T(f)(x)| + |T((a - a_Q)^m f)(x)|. \quad (6.5)$$

Let us consider the last term. We have

$$\int_Q |T((a - a_Q)^m f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx$$

$$\leq C \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{mp} |f(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \|f\|_\infty^p \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{mp} \beta(x)^p dx$$

By Lemma 4.6, the last term is bounded by

$$C \|f\|_{\infty}^p \int_Q \alpha(x)^p dx < \infty.$$

For the term  $|a(x) - a_Q|^m |T(f)(x)|$  in (6.5), we have, if  $r > 1$  is close enough to 1

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{mp} |T(f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \\ & \leq \left( \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{mp r} \beta(x)^{p r} dx \right)^{1/r} \left( \int_Q |T(f)(x)|^{p r'} dx \right)^{1/r'} \\ & \leq C \left( \int_Q \alpha(x)^{p r} dx \right)^{1/r} \|f\|_{\infty}^p |Q|^{1/r'} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

In the case  $m=1$ , this is all we need in order to apply the Fefferman-Stein theorem, obtaining:

$$\int_{R^n} |T_a^1(f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} |f(x)|^p \alpha(x)^p dx,$$

for any bounded function  $f$  with compact support. If we assume that for  $0 < h < m$

$$\int_{R^n} |T_a^h(f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \leq C \int_{R^n} |f(x)|^p \alpha(x)^p dx,$$

holds for any  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A_p(v^h)$ , then for the terms under the summation sign in (6.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{(m-h)p} |T_a^h(f)(x)|^p \beta(x)^p dx \\ & \leq \left( \int_Q |a(x) - a_Q|^{mp} \beta(x)^p dx \right)^{(m-h)/m} \left( \int_Q |T_a^h(f)(x)|^{pm/h} \beta(x)^p dx \right)^{h/m} \\ & \leq C \left( \int_Q \alpha(x)^p dx \right)^{(m-h)/m} \left( \int_Q |T_a^h(f)(x)|^{pm/h} (\beta(x)^{h/m})^{pm/h} dx \right)^{h/m}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.6}$$

Since  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = \nu^m$  and  $\alpha^p, \beta^p \in A_p$ , we have  $\alpha^{h/m}(\beta^{h/m})^{-1} = \nu^h$  and  $\alpha^p, \beta^p \in A_{mp/h}$ , i.e.,  $(\alpha^{h/m}, \beta^{h/m}) \in A_{mp/h}(\nu^h)$ . Thus (6.6) is bounded by

$$C\left(\int_Q \alpha(x)^p dx\right)^{(m-h)/m} \left(\int_Q |f(x)|^{pm/h} \alpha(x)^p dx\right)^{h/m} \leq \|f\|_\infty^p \int_Q \alpha(x)^p dx,$$

and the proof is complete  $\square$

## References

- [B] S. BLOOM, *A commutator theorem and weighted BMO*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc **292** (1985), 103-122.
- [C] S. CHANILLO, *Weighted norm inequalities for strongly singular convolution operators*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **281** (1984), 77-107.
- [C-R-W] R. COIFMAN, R. ROCHBERG AND GUIDO WEISS, *Factorization theorems for Hardy spaces in several variables*, Ann. of Math. **103** (1976), 611-635.
- [F-S] C. FEFFERMAN AND E. M. STEIN,  *$H^p$  spaces of several variables*, Acta Math. **129** (1972), 137-193.
- [G-H-S-T] J. GARCIA CUERVA, E. HARBOURE, C. SEGOVIA AND J. L. TORREA, *Weighted norm inequalities for commutators of strongly singular integrals*, Indiana Univ. Math. J. **40** (1991), 1397-1420
- [G-R] J. GARCIA CUERVA AND J.L. RUBIO DE FRANCIA, "Weighted norm inequalities and related topics", North Holland, 1985.
- [H] I.I. HIRSCHMAN, *Multiplier transformations*, Duke Math. Jour. **26** (1959), 222-242.
- [H-M-S] E. HARBOURE, R.A. MACIAS AND C. SEGOVIA, *Extrapolation results for classes of weights*, Amer. Jour. of Math. **110** (1988), 383-397.
- [M] B. MUCKENHOUPT, *Weighted norm inequalities for the Hardy maximal function*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **165** (1972), 207-226.

- [S-T 1] C. SEGOVIA AND J.L. TORREA, "*Analysis and Partial Differential Equations*", Marcel Dekker, 1990, pp. 331-345.
- [S-T 2] \_\_\_\_\_, *Weighted inequalities for commutators of fractional and singular integrals*, Publicacions Matemàtiques 35 (1991), 209-235.
- [S-T 3] \_\_\_\_\_, *Higher order commutators for vector-valued Calderón Zygmund operators*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. (to appear).
- [S-W] J.O. STROMBERG AND R.L. WHEEDEN, *Fractional integrals on weighted  $H^p$  and  $L^p$  spaces*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **287** (1987), 293-321.
- [W] S. WAINGER, *Special trigonometric series in  $k$ -dimensions*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc. **59** (1965).

*segovia@iamba.edu.ar*