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An atomic theory of ergodic H^p spaces

by

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Abstract. Let T be an invertible measure-preserving ergodic transformation on a probability space. We define elementary functions associated with T , called “atoms”, and we use them to define ergodic Hardy spaces H^p for $p \leq 1$. From this atomic definition we obtain maximal function characterizations of H^p . We identify the duals of H^p and of H^1 , and finally we obtain interpolation theorems between H^p and L_q , $p \leq 1 < q$.

Introduction. In this paper we study the Hardy spaces induced by an invertible, ergodic, measure-preserving transformation on a probability space X .

In [2], Coifman and Weiss studied the space $H^1(X)$, which they defined as the space of functions in $L_1(X)$ whose ergodic Hilbert transform is in $L_1(X)$. Their main results are that, as in the classical case, H^1 can be characterized in terms of maximal operators and that the dual of H^1 can be identified with the space of functions of bounded mean oscillation. (See [4] for the case $H^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$).

It was found later that $H^p(\mathbf{R}^n)$ can be defined in terms of elementary functions called “atoms” [1], this atomic characterization being very useful in studying interpolation, duality, etc.

Since the methods of [2] do not seem to work for $p < 1$, we use an “atomic” approach. We define $H^{p,q}(X)$ for $1/2 < p \leq 1$, $p < q$, as the spaces of functions that can be written in terms of (p, q) atoms. In the first section we show that $H^{p,q}$ can be characterized in terms of maximal operators as in the case $p = 1$. As a corollary we show that $H^{p,q}$ depends only on p , i.e. $H^{p,q} = H^{p,\infty}$, so that we may write simply H^p .

In the second section we use our atoms to study the dual of H^p . One easily sees then that the dual of H^1 is BMO, obtaining another proof of the result in [2]. For $p < 1$ the analogy with the case $H^p(\mathbf{R}^n)$ breaks down since the dual of $H^p(X)$ ($p < 1$) is made only of multiples of the functional induced by the measure on X , while in the classical case H^{p*} is a space of Lipschitz functions. For ergodic H^p spaces, defined by an ergodic action of \mathbf{R} in X , this result was obtained by Muhly in [6], but his methods are entirely different and do not seem to be applicable to the discrete case. Our “atomic” proof

has also the advantage of giving both H^{1*} and H^{p*} at one stroke, thus explaining why there is such a sharp difference.

Finally, in the third section we extend to the ergodic case the interpolation theorems which, in the real case, are due to Fefferman, Rivière, and Sagher [5]. We obtain interpolation theorems between H^p and $L_{p'}$, for $1/2 < p \leq 1 < p' \leq \infty$, using once more our atoms and the fact that $H^{p,\infty} = H^{p,q} = H^p$.

The restriction $p > 1/2$ is only technical, and it is only made to simplify the proofs. One can extend the results to $p < 1/2$ by asking for more cancellations in the definition of the atoms, in the same way as in [3].

$H^{p,q}$ spaces. Definitions. Let (X, m) be a nonatomic probability space and $T: X \rightarrow X$ an invertible, measure-preserving, ergodic transformation.

DEFINITION. Let $B \subset X$ be a set of positive measure such that for some $k \geq 1$ we have

$$T^i B \cap T^j B = \emptyset, \quad i \neq j, \quad 0 \leq i, j \leq k-1.$$

Then the set $R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B$ will be called an *ergodic rectangle* with *base* B and *length* k .

DEFINITION. Let p, q be real numbers, $1/2 < p \leq 1 \leq q \leq \infty$, $p < q$. A real-valued function a is a (p, q) *atom* if either

(1) a is zero outside an ergodic rectangle $R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B$ and satisfies

$$(a) \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} a(T^j x) = 0 \quad \text{for } x \in B,$$

$$(b) k^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} |a(T^j x)|^q \leq m(R)^{-q/p}, \quad x \in B, \quad q < \infty,$$

$$\|a\|_\infty \leq m(R)^{-1/p} \quad \text{if } q = \infty,$$

or

$$(2) a \in L_q(X), \quad \|a\|_q \leq 1.$$

We will say that an atom is of *type 1* if it verifies (1) and of *type 2* if it verifies (2).

It is easy to show that (b) implies that

$$\|a\|_q \leq m(R)^{(1/q) - (1/p)}.$$

DEFINITION. For p, q as before, $H^{p,q}(X)$ is the set of functions f that can be written as

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i a_i$$

where a_i are (p, q) atoms, $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |c_i|^p < \infty$, and the convergence is in the L_p -metric.

We introduce a metric in $H^{p,q}(X)$ by

$$d_{p,q}(h_1, h_2) = \|h_1 - h_2\|_{p,q}$$

where

$$\|h\|_{p,q} = \left\{ \inf \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |c_i|^p : h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i a_i, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |c_i|^p < \infty \right\}.$$

It is clear that $H^{p,\infty} \subset H^{p,q} \subset H^{p,r}$ if $r \leq q \leq \infty$, the inclusion being continuous.

We will show that the converse also holds by using a characterization of the $H^{p,q}$ spaces in terms of a maximal operator.

The maximal operator. Let $\varphi \in L_1(\mathbf{Z})$ and $f \in L_1(X)$. The *convolution* of f and φ is defined as $(f * \varphi)(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} f(T^{-n}x) \varphi(n)$. It is obvious that

$$\|f * \varphi\|_1 \leq \|\varphi\|_1 \|f\|_1.$$

DEFINITION. Let φ be a nonnegative $C^\infty(\mathbf{R})$ function with support in $(-1, 1)$ and $L > 0$. For $f \in L_1(X)$ we define

$$M(L, \varphi) f(x) = \sup_{|n| < n < L} |(f * \varphi_n)(T^n x)|$$

and

$$M(\varphi) f(x) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} M(L, \varphi) f(x)$$

where

$$\varphi_n(m) = \frac{1}{n} \varphi\left(\frac{m}{n}\right), \quad m \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

We also define

$$M(L) f(x) = \sup M(L, \varphi) f(x) (A(\varphi))^{-1}$$

where the sup is taken over all C^∞ functions with support in $(-1, 1)$ and where $A(\varphi)$ is the normalizing factor

$$A(\varphi) = \|\varphi\|_\infty + \|\varphi'\|_\infty.$$

Finally,

$$Mf(x) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} M(L) f(x).$$

It is not difficult to show that this operator is dominated by the ergodic

maximal operator, and therefore is of weak type $(1, 1)$ and bounded in any L_q , $1 < q$.

We now show that atoms behave well with respect to the maximal operator. More precisely:

PROPOSITION. *Let a be a (p, q) atom. Then $Ma \in L_p$, and $\|Ma\|_p \leq C$, where C is an absolute constant.*

Proof. If a is a type 2 atom then since our space has measure one we have

$$\|Ma\|_p \leq \|Ma\|_q \leq C\|a\|_q \leq C \quad \text{for } q > 1.$$

For $q = 1$ we use Kolmogorov's inequality to obtain

$$\|Ma\|_p \leq C\|a\|_1 \leq C.$$

If a is a type 1 atom, we use a transference argument.

We say that a function $A: \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is a (p, q) atom in the integers if its support is contained in an interval $(l, l+1, \dots, l+k-1)$ and

$$(a) \sum_n A(n) = 0,$$

$$(b) k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |A(l+i)|^q \leq k^{-q/p}.$$

We will show that if we consider MA where M is the maximal operator defined above, we have

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |MA(n)|^p \leq C(p, q)$$

where C depends only on p and q . The proof is an adaptation to the integers of the standard argument for the continuous case, and we include it only for completeness.

First of all, since M commutes with translations, we can assume that $l = 0$. Now

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=-4k}^{4k} |MA(m)|^p &\leq (8k+1) \left(\frac{1}{8k+1} \sum_{m=-4k}^{4k} |MA(m)|^q \right)^{p/q} \\ &\leq C(p, q) (8k+1)^{1-(p/q)} \left(\sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} |A(m)|^q \right)^{p/q} \\ &\leq C(p, q) (8k+1)^{1-(p/q)} k^{-(1-(p/q))} \\ &\leq C'(p, q). \end{aligned}$$

Let us now fix $|m| > 4k$, and let us fix n, L, φ and $|i| < n < L$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (A * \varphi_n)(m+i) &= \sum_j A(m+i-j) \varphi_n(j) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} A(j) \varphi_n(m+i-j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} A(j) \left(\frac{1}{n} \left(\varphi \left(\frac{m+i-j}{n} \right) - \varphi \left(\frac{m+i}{n} \right) \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now the sum is zero unless $n > |m/4|$, for if $n \leq |m/4|$ then $|i| < |m/4|$, $j < k < |m/4|$, and thus $|m+i-j| > |m| - |m/2| > n$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |(A * \varphi_n)(m+i)| &\leq \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} |A(j)| A(\varphi)j \\ &\leq \frac{A(\varphi)C}{m^2} k \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} |A(j)| \leq \frac{CA(\varphi)}{m^2} k^{2-(1/p)}. \end{aligned}$$

This means that

$$|MA(m)| \leq \frac{C}{m^2} k^{2-(1/p)} \quad \text{if } |m| > 4k$$

and

$$\sum_{|m| > 4k} |MA(m)|^p \leq Ck^{2p-1} \sum_{|m| > 4k} \frac{1}{m^{2p}} \leq C' \quad \text{if } p > 1/2.$$

We can now go back to the ergodic case. Let a be a (p, q) atom with support in

$$R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B.$$

For each $x \in X$ we consider the function

$$a_x(n) = a(T^n x).$$

Since the orbit of x enters B infinitely many times, let us call y_i the points of the orbit that belong to B . Then for each n , $a_x(n) = a(T^l y_i)$ for some i , $0 \leq l \leq k$. It is then clear that we can write

$$a_x(n) = \sum_{i \in \mathbf{Z}} m(B)^{-1/p} A_{i,x}(n)$$

where $A_{i,x}(n) = m(B)^{1/p} a(T^n x)$ are (p, q) atoms in the integers with support in (l_i, \dots, l_i+k-1) with $y_i = T^{l_i} x \in B$. Therefore for $N > L > k$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_X |M(L)a(x)|^p dx &= \int_X \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^N |M(L)a_x(n)|^p dx \\ &= \int_X \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^N \sum_i |M(L)m(B)^{-1/p} A_{i,x}(n)|^p dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now the atoms $A_{i,x}$ whose support does not cut the interval $(-3N, 3N)$ do not contribute anything to $M(L)$ since it is easy to check that

$$M(L)A_{i,x}(n) = 0 \quad \text{if } n \notin (-3N, 3N);$$

since $k < L < N$, we can thus restrict our attention to those atoms whose support is contained in $(-4N, 4N)$.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \int_X |M(L)a(x)|^p dx &\leq \int_X \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^N \sum_{\text{supp } A_i \subset (-4N, 4N)} |M(L)m(B)^{-1/p} A_{i,x}(n)|^p dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2N+1} m(B)^{-1} \int_X \sum_{\text{supp } A_i \subset (-4N, 4N)} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |M(L)A_{i,x}(n)|^p dx \\ &\leq \frac{m(R)^{-1}}{2N+1} \int_X k \sum_{\text{supp } A_i \subset (-4N, 4N)} C dx \\ &= \frac{m(R)^{-1}}{2N+1} \int_X k \{ \text{number of } A_i \text{'s with} \\ &\quad \text{supp } A_i \subset (-4N, 4N) \} \\ &= \frac{m(R)^{-1}}{2N+1} \int_X \sum_{i=-4N}^{4N} \chi_R(T^i x) dx \\ &= C \frac{8N+1}{2N+1} m(R)^{-1} \int_X \chi_R = C \frac{8N+1}{2N+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Letting N and L go to infinity, we are done.

Our proposition obviously implies that if $f \in H^{p,q}$ then $Mf \in L_p$ and

$$\int |Mf|^p \leq C \sum |c_i|^p.$$

This means that any $H^{p,q}$ function has a maximal function in L_p . Our next aim is to prove the converse, namely that if f is an L_p function whose maximal function Mf is in L_p then f is in $H^{p,\infty}$. As a corollary we will have $H^{p,q} = H^{p,\infty}$.

First of all we need two technical lemmas.

LEMMA 1. Let $O \subset X$ be a set of positive measure such that the subset of \mathbf{Z} defined by $O^x = \{n \in \mathbf{Z}; T^n x \in O\}$ does not contain an interval of infinite length. Then O can be written as a disjoint union of ergodic rectangles R_i of length i .

PROOF. One just defines $R_i = \{x \in O; l(O_i^x) = i\}$, i.e. the set of points in O such that the interval of O^x that contains the origin has length i . It is

obvious that $O = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} R_i$ and that the R_i are pairwise disjoint. To see that R_i is a rectangle one just observes that $R_i = \bigcup_{j=0}^{i-1} T^j B_i$, where B_i is the set of points x in O such that $T^{-1}x \notin O$, $T^j x \in O$ for $j=1, 2, \dots, i-1$, and $T^i x \notin O$.

LEMMA 2. Let I be an interval in \mathbf{R} of the form $[a, b]$, $a, b \in \mathbf{Z}$. Then there exist a finite number of C^∞ functions $\{\Psi_j\}$ such that

- $\sum_j \Psi_j(x) = 1$ for $x \in I$; $\text{supp } \Psi_j \subset [a-1/2, b+1/2]$,
- $\|\Psi_j\|_\infty \leq C |\text{supp } \Psi_j|^{-1}$,
- $d(\text{supp } \Psi_j, \mathbf{R} - \bar{I}) \sim |\text{supp } \Psi_j|$; $\bar{I} - [a-1, b+1]$,
- $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} \Psi_j(n) \geq C |\text{supp } \Psi_j|$.

This is just a version adapted to the integers of a smooth partition of the characteristic function of an interval.

PROOF. Let $N = b - a$. If $N \leq 3$, we do it with just one function since it is clear that one can always construct a C^∞ function identically 1 on $[a, b]$ with support in $[a-1/2, b+1/2]$ and satisfying (b), (c) and (d).

If $N > 3$, we consider an interval $I_1 = [a_1, b_1]$, $a_1, b_1 \in \mathbf{Z}$, $b_1 - a_1 = [N/3]$ and situated in the middle of I . We take a C^∞ function ξ_1 satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1(x) &= 1, \quad x \in I_1, \quad 0 \leq \xi_1 \leq 1, \\ \text{supp } \xi_1 &\subset [a_1 - [N/6], b_1 + [N/6]], \\ \|\xi_1\|_\infty &\leq 6/N. \end{aligned}$$

From now on we consider only what is left on the right-hand side of I_1 (and proceed on the left side in the same way).

Let $J = [b_1, b]$. We cut it in half, consider $[b_1, b_1 + [J/2]] = [b_1, b_2]$ and construct ξ_2 such that $0 \leq \xi_2 \leq 1$, $\xi_2 \in C^\infty$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{supp } \xi_2 &\subset [b_1 - |J|/4, b_2 + |J|/4], \quad \|\xi_2\| \leq 4/|J|, \\ \xi_2(x) &= 1, \quad x \in [b_1, b_2]. \end{aligned}$$

One then repeats the process on $[b_2, b]$ until one gets an interval $[b_k, b]$ of length less than 4, in which case we define ξ_{k+1} as above, identically 1 on $[b_k, b]$, with support in $[b_k - 1/2, b + 1/2]$, and $\|\xi_{k+1}\|_\infty \leq 2$.

It is clear now that if we define

$$\Psi_j = \frac{\xi_j}{\sum_j \xi_j}$$

we have the family of functions satisfying (a), (b), (c) and (d).

We are ready to prove our main result.

THEOREM 1. Let f be an L_p function such that Mf is in L_p . Then f can be written as $f(x) = \sum_i c_i a_i(x)$ where the a_i are (p, ∞) atoms and

$$\sum_i |c_i|^p \leq C \|Mf\|_p^p.$$

Proof. For each $\lambda > 0$ consider the set

$$O(\lambda) = \{x \in X; Mf(x) > \lambda\}.$$

Let $\lambda_0 = \inf \{\lambda > 0; m(O_\lambda) < 1\}$. If $\lambda_0 \neq 0$, we consider the sequence $\lambda_k = 2^k \lambda_0$, $k = 0, 1, \dots$

Let $k \neq 0$. Then $m(O(\lambda_k)) < 1$ and since T is ergodic we can use Lemma 1 and write

$$O(\lambda_k) = \bigcup_i R_i^k$$

where the R_i^k are disjoint rectangles of length i ; we now write for k fixed

$$f = \sum_i f \chi_{R_i^k} + f(1 - \chi_{O(\lambda_k)}).$$

For each i fixed, we use Lemma 2 on the interval $[0, l(i)](l(i)+1 = \text{length of } R_i)$ and we call $\{\Psi_{i,j}^k\}$ the corresponding partition of unity.

Let B_i^k be the base of R_i^k and write

$$m_{i,j}^k(T^m x) = \frac{\sum_n f(T^n x) \Psi_{i,j}^k(n)}{\sum_n \Psi_{i,j}^k(n)}, \quad x \in B_i^k, m \in [0, l(i)],$$

$$m_{i,j}^k(T^m x) = 0 \quad \text{if } T^m x \notin R_i^k.$$

Each $\Psi_{i,j}^k$ can be used to define a function on X , which we will call by the same name, as

$$\Psi_{i,j}^k(T^n x) = \Psi_{i,j}^k(n) \quad \text{for } x \in B_i^k, 0 \leq n \leq l(i),$$

and zero otherwise. It is clear that $\sum_j \Psi_{i,j}^k = \chi_{R_i^k}$. Now for k fixed we may write

$$f = \sum_i \sum_j (f - m_{i,j}^k) \Psi_{i,j}^k + \sum_{i,j} m_{i,j}^k \Psi_{i,j}^k + f(1 - \chi_{O(\lambda_k)}) = b_k + g_k$$

where

$$b_k = \sum_i \sum_j (f - m_{i,j}^k) \Psi_{i,j}^k,$$

$$g_k = \sum_{i,j} m_{i,j}^k \Psi_{i,j}^k + f(1 - \chi_{O(\lambda_k)}).$$

Let $(a-h, a+h)$ be the smallest interval containing the support of $\Psi = \Psi_{i,j}^k$ with $a, h \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let N be a fixed number (independent of f, i, j, k) such that $(a-Nh, a+Nh)$ intersects $\mathbb{R} - (-1, l(i)+1)$. The let

$$\varphi(s) = Nh \Psi(a - sNh).$$

It is clear that

$$\|\varphi\|_\infty \leq Nh \quad \text{and} \quad \|\varphi'\|_\infty \leq (Nh)^2 \|\Psi'\|_\infty \leq Ch$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (f * \varphi_{Nh})(T^a x) &= \sum_n f(T^{a-n} x) \varphi_{Nh}(n) = \sum_n f(T^{a-n} x) \Psi(a-n) \\ &= \sum_n f(T^n x) \Psi(n). \end{aligned}$$

Remembering the definition of our maximal operator, we have

$$\left| \sum_n f(T^n x) \Psi(n) \right| \leq C Mf(T^{a+l} x) h$$

provided $|l| < Nh$. Now because of property (c) in Lemma 2 we choose l such that $T^{a+l}(x) \notin O(\lambda_k)$ and by property (d)

$$m_{i,j}^k \leq C Mf(x') \quad \text{with } x' \in X - O(\lambda_k).$$

Therefore

$$m_{i,j}^k \leq C \lambda_k.$$

On the other hand, if $x \notin O(\lambda_k)$ then

$$f(x) \leq Mf(x) < \lambda_k,$$

and we obtain

$$g_k(x) \leq C \lambda_k.$$

Since we are assuming $Mf \in L_p$, it is clear that $m(O(\lambda_k)) \rightarrow 0$ as $\lambda_k \rightarrow \infty$, and therefore, since b_k has support in $O(\lambda_k)$, we have

$$f(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} g_k,$$

and defining

$$b_0(x) = f(x)$$

we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (g_{k+1} - g_k) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (b_k - b_{k+1}).$$

Now we observe that $O(\lambda_{k+1}) \subset O(\lambda_k)$ and therefore each

$$R_j^{k+1} \subset O(\lambda_k) = \bigcup_i R_i^k;$$

so if we write

$$R_j^{k+1} = \bigcup_i (R_j^{k+1} \cap R_i^k)$$

we obtain R_j^{k+1} as a disjoint union of $R_i^{k+1} = R_j^{k+1} \cap R_i^k$, where each R_i^{k+1} is a rectangle with base $B_{i,j}^{k+1} = B_j^{k+1} \cap R_i^k$, and length that of R_j^{k+1} .

If we write

$$a_{i,j}^k = (f - m_{i,j}^k) \Psi_{i,j}^k$$

then

$$b_k = \sum_i b_{i,k} \quad \text{with} \quad b_{i,k} = \sum_j a_{i,j}^k.$$

Let us fix i and write

$$A_{i,k} = b_{i,k} - \sum_j b_{j,k+1} \chi_{R_{i,j}^{k+1}},$$

the sum extended over all j such that $R_{i,j}^{k+1} \neq \emptyset$. From the above observation on the decompositions of $O(\lambda_{k+1})$ and $O(\lambda_k)$ it is clear that

$$b_k - b_{k+1} = \sum_i A_{i,k} = g_{k+1} - g_k.$$

But since the $A_{i,k}$ have disjoint supports for k fixed, it follows that for any x

$$|A_{i,k}(x)| = |g_{k+1}(x) - g_k(x)| \leq C\lambda_k.$$

Also from the definition of $m_{i,j}^k$ it follows that

$$\sum_{l=0}^{i-1} a_{i,j}(T^l x) = 0, \quad x \in B_i^k.$$

These last two observations imply that

$$\tilde{A}_{i,k} = (C\lambda_k m(R_i^k)^{1/p})^{-1} A_{i,k}$$

is a (p, ∞) atom for $k = 1, 2, \dots$

For $k = 0$ we define $A_0 = b_0 - b_1 = g_1 - g_0$, which implies

$$|A_0(x)| \leq C\lambda_0,$$

so that

$$\tilde{A}_0 = (C\lambda_0)^{-1} A_0$$

is a (p, ∞) atom of type 2. We may then write

$$f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (b_k - b_{k+1}) = C\lambda_0 \tilde{A}_0 + \sum_{i,k} C\lambda_k (m(R_{i,k}))^{1/p} \tilde{A}_{i,k}$$

where $\tilde{A}_0, \tilde{A}_{i,k}$ are (p, ∞) atoms, while the sum of the p th powers of the coefficients is dominated by

$$\begin{aligned} C \sum_k \lambda_k^p m(O(\lambda_k)) &= C \sum_k \lambda_k^p \int_{\{x: Mf > \lambda_k\}} 1 \, dx = \int_X \sum_{k=0}^{\lambda_k < Mf(x)} \lambda_k^p \, dx \\ &\leq C \int_X |Mf(x)|^p \, dx. \end{aligned}$$

If $\lambda_0 = 0$ we choose $\lambda_k = 2^k, k \in \mathbf{Z}$. Then for each $k, m(O(\lambda_k)) < 1$ and we may write as above

$$f = b_k + g_k$$

with $|g_k| < C\lambda_k$, which means that $g_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow -\infty$. On the other hand, since the support of b_k is contained in $O(\lambda_k)$, it follows that $b_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and therefore

$$f = \lim_{k \rightarrow -\infty} b_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} g_k$$

and

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (g_{k+1} - g_k)(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (b_k - b_{k+1})(x).$$

From this equality we proceed as in the case $\lambda_0 \neq 0$.

The theorem implies that the set $\{f \in L_p; Mf \in L_p\}$ is contained in $H^{p,\infty} \subset H^{p,q}$ and the metric induced by Mf is equivalent to that of $H^{p,\infty}$. We thus have

$$H^{p,q} = H^{p,\infty} = \{f \in L_p; Mf \in L_p\}$$

with equivalent metrics. We may therefore drop the q and write simply H^p .

The characterization of H^p in terms of the maximal function allows us to show that H^p is a complete metric space.

THEOREM 2. H^p is complete.

Proof. Let $\{f_n\}$ be a Cauchy sequence, i.e.,

$$\|M(f_n - f_m)\|_p \rightarrow 0.$$

Then $\{f_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in L_p . Let f be its L_p -limit. We will show that $f_n \rightarrow f$ in H^p .

First of all, for f, f_n, L, x and ε fixed, there exist $k(x), i = i(x)$ such that

$$M(L)(f - f_n)(x) \leq \left| \sum_{j=-k(x)}^{k(x)} (f - f_n)(T^{i-j}x) \Psi_{k(x)}(j) \right| + \varepsilon,$$

which means that

$$\int_X M(L)(f-f_n)(x) dz \leq \int_X \left| \sum_{j=-k(x)}^{k(x)} (f-f_n)(T^{i-j}x) \Psi_{k(x)}(j) \right|^p dx + \varepsilon^p.$$

But since

$$\sum_{j=-k(x)}^{k(x)} (f-f_n)(T^{i-j}x) \Psi_{k(x)}(j) \stackrel{L^p}{\leq} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j=-k(x)}^{k(x)} (f_m-f_n)(T^{i-j}x) \Psi_{k(x)}(j),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_X |M(L)(f-f_n)(x)|^p dx &\leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \left| \sum_{j=-k(x)}^{k(x)} (f_m-f_n)(T^{i-j}x) \Psi_{k(x)}(j) \right|^p dx + \varepsilon^p \\ &\leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_X |M(f_m-f_n)(x)|^p dx + \varepsilon^p \leq \bar{\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

if n is big enough. This shows that f is in H^p and $f_n \rightarrow f$ in H^p .

Dual spaces. In this section we will show that the dual of H^1 is the space of functions of bounded mean oscillation (BMO), while the dual of H^p ($p < 1$) is trivial.

For $p = 1$ the result was first proved by Coifman and Weiss [2], while for $p < 1$, in a different setting, Muhly [6] proved that $(H^p)^*$ is trivial. We present a very simple proof based on the atomic decomposition, which gives both cases and explains the reason for the sharp differences. We recall that for any integrable function f one can define f^* as

$$f^*(x) = \sup_n n^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |f(T^i x) - T_n f(x)|$$

where

$$T_n f(x) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f(T^i x).$$

A function is said to belong to BMO iff f^* is bounded. We norm BMO by

$$\|f\|_{\text{BMO}} = \|f\|_1 + \|f^*\|_{\infty}.$$

We start by showing that any BMO function “is” a linear functional in H^1 .

PROPOSITION. *Let $f \in \text{BMO}$. Then for any $h \in H^1$ of the form $h = \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i a_i$,*

$$\langle f, h \rangle \equiv \int f h$$

satisfies

$$|\langle f, h \rangle| \leq \|f\|_{\text{BMO}} \sum_{i=1}^N |\lambda_i| \leq \|f\|_{\text{BMO}} \|h\|_{H^1}$$

Therefore f induces a linear functional in H^1 with norm at most $\|f\|_{\text{BMO}}$.

Proof. It is enough to show that if a is a $(1, \infty)$ atom, then

$$|\int f a| \leq \|f\|_{\text{BMO}}.$$

If a is a type 2 atom then

$$|\int f a| \leq \int |f| \leq \|f\|_{\text{BMO}}$$

since $\|a\|_{\infty} \leq 1$. If a is a type 1 atom supported in the rectangle $R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_X f(x) a(x) \right| &= \left| \int_R f(x) a(x) \right| = \left| \int_B \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a(T^i x) f(T^i x) \right| \\ &= \left| \int_B \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a(T^i x) (f(T^i x) - T_n f(x)) \right| \\ &\leq \int_B \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |a(T^i x)| |f(T^i x) - T_n f(x)| \\ &\leq k m(R)^{-1} \int_B k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_n f(x)| \\ &\leq k m(R)^{-1} m(B) \|f\|_{\text{BMO}} = \|f\|_{\text{BMO}}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\text{BMO} \subset (H^1)^*$. For $p < 1$ it is trivial that any constant produces a continuous linear functional on H^p .

Let now L be an element of $(H^p)^*$. Fix any q , $1 < q < \infty$. Then if h is in L_q , we have

$$\|Mh\|_q \leq C_q \|h\|_q$$

and therefore

$$(\int |Mh|^p)^{1/p} \leq \|Mh\|_q \leq C \|h\|_q,$$

and this means that L defines a linear functional in L_q , and so it can be represented by a function f in $L_{q'} \subset L_1$. Let now a be a (p, ∞) atom of type 1. Then

$$|\langle L, a \rangle| = \left| \int_R f a \right| \leq \|L\|.$$

Let us now fix an ergodic rectangle $R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B$, and let us write, for any $y \in R$,

$$T_k f(y) = k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} f(T^i x) \quad \text{where } x \in B, y = T^j x, 0 \leq j \leq k-1.$$

We observe that

$$\|f - T_k f\|_{L_1(R)} = \sup_{\|g\|_\infty \leq 1} \left| \int_R (f - T_k f) g \right|.$$

But

$$\left| \int_R (f - T_k f) g \right| = \left| \int_R (f - T_k f)(g - T_k g) \right|$$

since

$$\int_R (f - T_k f) T_k g = \int_B \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (f - T_k f)(T^i x) T_k g(T^i x),$$

but $T_k g(T^i x)$ is independent of i and

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (f - T_k f)(T^i x) = T_k f(x) - T_k f(x) = 0.$$

The same argument shows that

$$\int_R (T_k f)(g - T_k g) = 0$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_R (f - T_k f) g \right| &= \left| \int_R (f - T_k f) g \right| \\ &= \left| \int_R f \frac{g - T_k g}{(km(B))^{1/p}} (km(B))^{1/p} \right| \leq 2(km(B))^{1/p} \left| \int_R f a \right| \end{aligned}$$

with

$$a = \frac{g - T_k g}{2(km(B))^{1/p}} \chi_R,$$

which is a (p, ∞) atom. Therefore

$$\|f - T_k f\|_{L_1(R)} \leq 2m(R)^{1/p} \|L\|.$$

This can be written as

$$\frac{1}{m(B)} \int_B k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_k f(x)| \leq 2m(R)^{(1/p)-1} \|L\|.$$

Let now $A \subset B$, $m(A) > 0$. It is obvious that A is the base of the rectangle $\tilde{R} = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i A$ and so

$$\frac{1}{m(A)} \int_A k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_k f| \leq 2\|L\| m(\tilde{R})^{(1/p)-1} \leq 2\|L\| m(R)^{(1/p)-1}.$$

Since A is arbitrary, this implies that for almost all x in B we have

$$k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_k f| \leq 2\|L\| m(R)^{(1/p)-1}.$$

If $p = 1$, this means that

$$k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_k f| \leq 2\|L\| \quad \text{a.e.}$$

If $p < 1$, by choosing small rectangles one gets

$$k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |f(T^i x) - T_k f| = 0 \quad \text{a.e.,}$$

i.e. f is constant on orbits, and since T is ergodic, f is constant.

We have thus shown that for $p < 1$, f must be constant, while for $p = 1$ we have $f \in \text{BMO}$ and

$$\|f^*\| \leq 2\|L\|.$$

Furthermore, since any function g such that $\|g\|_\infty \leq 1$ is a $(1, \infty)$ atom, we have $|\int f g| \leq \|L\|$ for any such g . Therefore $\|f\|_1 \leq \|L\|$ and finally

$$\|f\|_{\text{BMO}} = \|f\|_1 + \|f^*\|_\infty \leq 3\|L\|.$$

Interpolation. In this section we will show that one can interpolate between H^p , $1/2 < p \leq 1$ and L^q , $q > 1$.

DEFINITION. We will say that a sublinear operator T is of *weak type* (H^p, p) , $p \leq 1$ if

$$m\{x; |Tf(x)| > \lambda\} \leq (M/\lambda)^p |f|_{p, \infty}.$$

We will prove that if an operator T is of weak type (H^{p_1}, p_1) and (p_2, p_2) with $1/2 < p_1 \leq 1 < p_2 \leq \infty$, then T is bounded in H^p , $p_1 < p \leq 1$, and also in L_p , $1 < p \leq p_2$.

We will split the proof into two theorems.

THEOREM 1. Let T be a sublinear operator of weak type (H^{p_1}, p_1) and (p_2, p_2) , $1/2 < p_1 \leq 1 < p_2$. Then T is bounded from H^p into L_p , $p_1 < p \leq 1$.

Proof. It is enough to show that $\|Ta\|_p < C$ for any (p, ∞) atom.

If a is a type 1 atom with support in $R = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} T^i B$, then it follows that

$$\|a\|_{p_2} \leq m(R)^{(1/p_2)-(1/p)}$$

and

$$(k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |a(T^i x)|^{p_2})^{1/p_2} \leq m(R)^{-1/p},$$

which means that

$$b = m(R)^{(1/p)-(1/p_1)} a$$

is a (p_1, p_2) atom since

$$(k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |b(T^i x)|^{p_2})^{1/p_2} \leq m(R)^{-1/p_1}.$$

Since $H^{p_1, p_2} = H^{p_1, \infty} = H^{p_1}$ with equivalent "norms" it follows that $a \in H^{p_1}$ and

$$|a|_{p_1} \leq m(R)^{((1/p_1)-(1/p))p_1} = m(R)^{1-(p_1/p)}.$$

Therefore we know that

$$m\{x; |Ta(x)| > \lambda\} \leq (M_1/\lambda)^{p_1} |a|_{p_1} \leq (M_1/\lambda)^{p_1} m(R)^{1-(p_1/p)}$$

and

$$m\{x; |Ta(x)| > \lambda\} \leq (M_2/\lambda)^{p_2} \int |a|^{p_2} \leq (M_2/\lambda)^{p_2} m(R)^{1-(p_2/p)}.$$

From these two estimates one obtains a bound for $\|Ta\|_p^p$ in the usual way: we fix a number D and write

$$\begin{aligned} \int |Ta|^p &= p \int_0^{Dm(R)^{-1/p}} \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Ta(x)| > \lambda\} d\lambda + \\ &+ p \int_{Dm(R)^{-1/p}}^{\infty} \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Ta(x)| > \lambda\} d\lambda \\ &\leq p \int_0^{Dm(R)^{-1/p}} \lambda^{p-1-p_1} M_1^{p_1} m(R)^{1-(p_1/p)} d\lambda + \\ &+ p \int_{Dm(R)^{-1/p}}^{\infty} \lambda^{p-1-p_2} M_2^{p_2} m(R)^{1-(p_2/p)} d\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Since $p_1 < p < p_2$, the last expression is bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{p}{p-p_1} M_1^{p_1} m(R)^{1-(p_1/p)} (Dm(R)^{-1/p})^{p-p_1} + \\ &+ \frac{p}{p_2-p} M_2^{p_2} m(R)^{1-(p_2/p)} (Dm(R)^{-1/p})^{p-p_2} \\ &= \frac{p}{p-p_1} M_1^{p_1} D^{p-p_1} + \frac{p}{p_2-p} M_2^{p_2} D^{p-p_2}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $D = (M_2^{p_2} M_1^{-p_1})^{1/(p_2-p_1)}$, we obtain

$$\|Ta\|_p \leq \left(\frac{p}{p-p_1} + \frac{p}{p_2-p} \right)^{1/p} M_1^t M_2^{1-t}$$

with

$$t = \frac{p_1(p_2-p)}{p(p_2-p_1)}.$$

If a is a type 2 atom, i.e. if $a \in L_\infty$, $\|a\|_\infty \leq 1$, then obviously $a \in H^{p_1}$ with $|a|_{p_1} \leq 1$ and $a \in L_{p_2}$ with $\|a\|_{p_2} \leq 1$, and we may write

$$\begin{aligned} \int |Ta|^p &= p \int_0^D \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Ta| > \lambda\} d\lambda + p \int_D^\infty \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Ta| > \lambda\} d\lambda \\ &\leq p \int_0^D \lambda^{p-1-p_1} M_1^{p_1} d\lambda + p \int_D^\infty \lambda^{p-1-p_2} M_2^{p_2} d\lambda \\ &\leq \frac{p}{p-p_1} M_1^{p_1} D^{p-p_1} + \frac{p}{p_2-p} M_2^{p_2} D^{p-p_2}. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing D as before, we have the same bound for $\|Ta\|_p$. This ends the proof of Theorem 1.

Next, we want to show that an operator of weak type $(H^1, 1)$ and (p_2, p_2) , $1 < p_2$, is bounded in L_p ($1 < p < p_2$). The idea is, as in the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem, to split f in L_p into two functions f_1 and f_2 , with f_1 in H_1 and f_2 in L_{p_2} . In order to be able to do this we need a technical lemma that will play the role of the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition.

For $p > 1$, let us fix p_0 , $1 < p_0 < p$, and let us consider the operator

$$A_{p_0}(f) = (|f|^{p_0})^{1/p_0}$$

where

$$g^*(x) = \sup k^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |g(T^i x)|.$$

Then obviously, since $p/p_0 > 1$, we have

$$\int |A_{p_0}(f)|^p = \int (|f|^{p_0})^{p/p_0} \leq C_{p/p_0} \int |f|^p,$$

which means that A_{p_0} is a bounded operator in L_p , and in particular the set $O(\lambda) = \{x; A_{p_0}(f)(x) > \lambda\}$ has measure strictly less than 1 if $\lambda > C_{p/p_0} \|f\|_p$.

LEMMA 3. Let $f \in L_p$ and $\lambda > C_{p/p_0} \|f\|_p$. Then $O(\lambda) = \{x; A_{p_0}f(x) > \lambda\} = \bigcup R_j$ where the R_j are ergodic rectangles, pairwise disjoint, and for each $x \in B_j$ (the base of R_j) we have

$$(j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} |f(T^i x)|^{p_0})^{1/p_0} \leq 2\lambda.$$

PROOF. As in Lemma 1, we just define

$$B_j = \{x \in O(\lambda); T^{-1}x \notin O(\lambda), x \in O(\lambda), \dots, T^{j-1}x \in O(\lambda), T^j x \notin O(\lambda)\},$$

and it follows that $O(\lambda) = \bigcup R_j$ with $R_j = \bigcup_{i=0}^{j-1} T^i B_j$. Finally

$$j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} |f(T^i x)|^{p_0} \leq \frac{2}{j+1} \sum_{i=-1}^{j-1} |f(T^i x)|^{p_0} \leq 2f^{p_0}(T^{-1}x) \leq 2\lambda^{p_0}$$

since $T^{-1}x \notin O(\lambda)$.

THEOREM 2. Let T be a sublinear operator of weak type $(H^1, 1)$ and (p_2, p_2) , $1 < p_2 < \infty$. Then T is bounded in L_p , $1 < p < p_2$.

For $p_2 = \infty$, the result holds assuming that T is bounded in L_∞ .

PROOF. We will prove the theorem only in the case $p_2 < \infty$, since the other case is similar.

Let f be an L_p function, $1 < p < p_2$. We choose p_0 , $1 < p_0 < p$, and we consider the operator A_{p_0} . For each $\lambda > C_{p/p_0} \|f\|_p$, we use Lemma 3 to write

$$O(\lambda) = \{x; A_{p_0}f(x) > \lambda\} = \bigcup R_j.$$

For each $y \in R_j$, we define

$$(T_j f)(y) = j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} f(T^i x)$$

where $x \in B_j$, $y = T^l x$, $0 \leq l \leq j-1$. We may then write

$$f = \sum_j (f - T_j f) \chi_{R_j} + \sum_j (T_j f) \chi_{R_j} + f(1 - \chi_{O(\lambda)}) \equiv b_\lambda + g_\lambda$$

where

$$b_\lambda = \sum_j (f - T_j f) \chi_{R_j}.$$

Since

$$|(T_j f)(y)| \leq (j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} |f(T^i x)|^{p_0})^{1/p_0} \leq 2\lambda,$$

we have for each j , and for each $x \in B_j$,

$$\begin{aligned} & (j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} |f(T^i x) - T_j f(T^i x)|^{p_0})^{1/p_0} \\ & \leq (j^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} |f(T^i x)|^{p_0})^{1/p_0} + |T_j f(x)| \leq 4\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the function

$$a_j = \frac{1}{4\lambda m(R_j)} (f - T_j f) \chi_{R_j}$$

is a $(1, p_0)$ atom supported in the rectangle R_j . This means that we can write b_λ as an H^{1, p_0} function, since

$$b_\lambda = \sum_j 4\lambda m(R_j) a_j$$

with norm bounded by $4\lambda \sum m(R_j) = 4\lambda m(O(\lambda))$. Since $H^{1, p_0} = H^1$ with equivalent norms, we have $b_\lambda \in H^1$ and $|b_\lambda|_{H^1} \leq C\lambda m(O(\lambda))$. On the other hand, g_λ is in L_{p_2} since

$$g_\lambda = \sum_j (T_j f) \chi_{R_j} + f(1 - \chi_{O(\lambda)});$$

so if $y \in O(\lambda)$ we have $g_\lambda(y) = T_j f(y)$ for some j , and then $|g_\lambda(y)| \leq 2\lambda$, while if $y \notin O(\lambda)$, then

$$|g_\lambda(y)| = |f(y)| \leq (A_{p_0} f)(y) \leq \lambda.$$

These are the type of estimates one needs to make the argument in the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem work.

Let us consider a constant L larger than $C_{p/p_0} \|f\|_p$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int |Tf|^p & \leq p \int_0^L \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Tf(x)| > \lambda\} d\lambda + \\ & + p \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Tg_\lambda(x)| > \lambda/2\} d\lambda + \\ & + p \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; |Tb_\lambda(x)| > \lambda/2\} d\lambda \\ & = I_1 + I_2 + I_3. \end{aligned}$$

In order to estimate I_1 , we recall that $f \in L_p \Rightarrow a = f/\|f\|_p$ is a $(1, p)$ atom, and therefore f belongs to H^1 with norm bounded by $C\|f\|_p$. Therefore

$$I_1 \leq Cp \int_0^L \lambda^{p-2} \|f\|_p d\lambda = C \frac{p}{p-1} \|f\|_p L^{p-1}.$$

For I_3 we use the fact that $b_\lambda \in H^1$ with norm bounded by $C\lambda m(O(\lambda))$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I_3 &\leq Cp \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-2} \lambda m(O(\lambda)) d\lambda \leq Cp \int_0^\infty \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; A_{p_0} f > \lambda\} d\lambda \\ &= C \int (A_{p_0} f)^p \leq C \cdot C_{p/p_0}^p \int |f|^p = C' \|f\|_p^p. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, for I_2 we use the fact that T is of weak type (p_2, p_2) , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &\leq Cp \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-p_2-1} \int |g|^{p_2} dx d\lambda \\ &= Cp \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-p_2-1} \left(\int_{O(\lambda)} |g|^{p_2} dx + \int_{X-O(\lambda)} |g|^{p_2} dx \right) d\lambda \\ &\leq Cp \int_0^\infty \lambda^{p-p_2-1} (2\lambda)^{p_2} m(O(\lambda)) d\lambda \\ &\quad + Cp \int_L^\infty \lambda^{p-p_2-1} \int_{\{A_{p_0} f \leq \lambda\}} |f|^{p_2} dx d\lambda \\ &\leq C \cdot 2^{p_2} p \int_0^\infty \lambda^{p-1} m\{x; A_{p_0} f > \lambda\} d\lambda + \\ &\quad + Cp \int |f|^{p_2} \int_{A_{p_0} f}^\infty \lambda^{p-p_2-1} d\lambda dx \\ &\leq C \cdot 2^{p_2} \int (A_{p_0} f)^p dx + C \frac{p}{p_2-p} \int |f|^{p_2} (A_{p_0} f)^{p-p_2} dx \\ &\leq \left(C \cdot 2^{p_2} + C \frac{p}{p_2-p} \right) \int (A_{p_0} f)^p dx \leq C' C_{p/p_0}^p \int |f|^p dx. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing now $L = 2C_{p/p_0} \|f\|_p$, we have obtained

$$\int |Tf|^p \leq C \|f\|_p^p$$

as we wanted.

Clearly Theorems 1 and 2 together imply that a sublinear operator of weak type (H^{p_1}, p_1) and (p_2, p_2) , $p_1 < 1 < p_2$, must be bounded in L_p , $1 < p < p_2$.

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