

## A GENERALIZATION OF THE BOUNDEDNESS OF CERTAIN INTEGRAL OPERATORS IN VARIABLE LEBESGUE SPACES

MARTA SUSANA URCIUOLO AND LUCAS ALEJANDRO VALLEJOS

(Communicated by J. Pečarić)

*Abstract.* Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  be  $n \times n$  invertible matrices. Let  $0 \leq \alpha < n$  and  $0 < \alpha_i < n$  such that  $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_m = n - \alpha$ . We define

$$T_\alpha f(x) = \int \frac{1}{|x - A_1 y|^{\alpha_1} \dots |x - A_m y|^{\alpha_m}} f(y) dy.$$

In [8] we obtained the boundedness of this operator from  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  into  $L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $\frac{1}{q(\cdot)} = \frac{1}{p(\cdot)} - \frac{\alpha}{n}$ , in the case that  $A_i$  is a power of certain fixed matrix  $A$  and for exponent functions  $p$  satisfying log-Holder conditions and  $p(Ay) = p(y)$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We will show now that the hypothesis on  $p$ , in certain cases, is necessary for the boundedness of  $T_\alpha$  and we also prove the result for more general matrices  $A_i$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Given a measurable function  $p(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ , let  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be the Banach space of measurable functions  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that for some  $\lambda > 0$ ,

$$\int \left( \frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda} \right)^{p(x)} dx < \infty,$$

with norm

$$\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int \left( \frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda} \right)^{p(x)} dx \leq 1 \right\}.$$

These spaces are known as *variable exponent spaces* and are a generalization of the classical Lebesgue spaces  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . They have been widely studied lately. See for example [1], [3] and [4]. The first step was to determine sufficient conditions on  $p(\cdot)$  for the boundedness on  $L^{p(\cdot)}$  of the Hardy Littlewood maximal operator

$$\mathcal{M}f(x) = \sup_B \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f(y)| dy,$$

where the supremum is taken over all balls  $B$  containing  $x$ . Let  $p_- = \text{ess inf } p(x)$  and let  $p_+ = \text{ess sup } p(x)$ . In [3], D. Cruz Uribe, A. Fiorenza and C. J. Neugebauer proved the following result.

---

*Mathematics subject classification* (2010): 42B25, 42B35.

*Keywords and phrases:* Variable exponents, fractional integrals.

Partially supported by CONICET and SECYTUNC.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $p(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be such that  $1 < p_- \leq p_+ < \infty$ . Suppose further that  $p(\cdot)$  satisfies*

$$|p(x) - p(y)| \leq \frac{c}{-\log|x-y|}, \quad |x-y| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad (1)$$

and

$$|p(x) - p(y)| \leq \frac{c}{\log(e+|x|)}, \quad |y| \geq |x|. \quad (2)$$

Then the Hardy Littlewood maximal operator is bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

We recall that a weight  $\omega$  is a locally integrable and non negative function. The Muckenhoupt class  $\mathcal{A}_p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , is defined as the class of weights  $\omega$  such that

$$\sup_Q \left[ \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \omega \right) \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \omega^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \right)^{p-1} \right] < \infty,$$

where  $Q$  is a cube in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

For  $p = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is the class of weights  $\omega$  satisfying that there exists  $c > 0$  such that

$$\mathcal{M}\omega(x) \leq c\omega(x) \text{ a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

We denote  $[\omega]_{\mathcal{A}_1}$  the infimum of the constant  $c$  such that  $\omega$  satisfies the above inequation.

In [5], B. Muckenhoupt y R.L. Wheeden define  $\mathcal{A}(p, q)$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $1 < q < \infty$ , as the class of weights  $\omega$  such that

$$\sup_Q \left[ \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \omega(x)^q dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \omega(x)^{-p'} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \right] < \infty.$$

When  $p = 1$ ,  $\omega \in \mathcal{A}(1, q)$  if only if

$$\sup_Q \left[ \|\omega^{-1} \chi_Q\|_\infty \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \omega(x)^q dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right] < \infty.$$

Let  $0 \leq \alpha < n$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , let  $0 < \alpha_i < n$ , be such that

$$\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_m = n - \alpha.$$

Let  $T_\alpha$  be the positive integral operator given by

$$T_\alpha f(x) = \int k(x, y) f(y) dy, \quad (3)$$

where

$$k(x, y) = \frac{1}{|x - A_1 y|^{\alpha_1}} \cdots \frac{1}{|x - A_m y|^{\alpha_m}},$$

and where the matrices  $A_i$  are certain invertible matrices such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ .

In the paper [7] the authors studied this kind of integral operators and they obtained weighted  $(p, q)$  estimates,  $\frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{\alpha}{n}$ , for weights  $w \in A(p, q)$  such that  $w(A_i x) \leq cw(x)$ . In [8] we use extrapolation techniques to obtain  $p(\cdot) - q(\cdot)$  and weak type estimates, in the case where  $A_i = A^i$ , for some invertible matrix  $A$  such that  $A^N = I$ , for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . This technique allows us to replace the log-Hölder conditions about the exponent  $p(\cdot)$  by a more general hypothesis concerning the boundedness of the maximal function  $\mathcal{M}$ . We obtain the following results.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $A$  be an invertible matrix such that  $A^N = I$ , for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $T_\alpha$  be the integral operator given by (3), where  $A_i = A^i$  and such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Let  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be such that  $1 < p_- \leq p_+ < \frac{n}{\alpha}$  and such that  $p(Ax) = p(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $q(\cdot)$  be defined by  $\frac{1}{p(x)} - \frac{1}{q(x)} = \frac{\alpha}{n}$ . If the maximal operator  $\mathcal{M}$  is bounded on  $L^{\left(\frac{n-\alpha p_-}{np_-} q(\cdot)\right)'}$  then  $T$  is bounded from  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  into  $L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .*

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $A$  be an invertible matrix such that  $A^N = I$ , for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $T_\alpha$  be the integral operator given by (3), where  $A_i = A^i$  and such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Let  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be such that  $1 \leq p_- \leq p_+ < \frac{n}{\alpha}$  and such that  $p(Ax) = p(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $q(\cdot)$  be defined by  $\frac{1}{p(x)} - \frac{1}{q(x)} = \frac{\alpha}{n}$ . If the maximal operator  $\mathcal{M}$  is bounded on  $L^{\left(\frac{n-\alpha p_-}{np_-} q(\cdot)\right)'}$  then there exists  $c > 0$  such that*

$$\|\mathcal{I}\mathcal{X}_{\{x: T_\alpha f(x) > t\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq c \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$

We also showed that this technique applies in the case when each of the matrices  $A_i$  is either a power of an orthogonal matrix  $A$  or a power of  $A^{-1}$ .

In this paper we will prove that these theorems generalize to any invertible matrices  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . We will also show, in some cases, that the condition  $p(A_i x) = p(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is necessary to obtain  $p(\cdot) - q(\cdot)$  boundedness.

## 2. Necessary conditions on $p$

Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  invertible matrix and let  $0 < \alpha < n$ . We define

$$T_A f(x) = \int \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha}} f(y) dy.$$

**PROPOSITION 4.** *Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  invertible matrix. Let  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be a measurable function such that  $p$  is continuous at  $y_0$  and at  $Ay_0$  for some  $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . If  $p(Ay_0) > p(y_0)$  then there exists  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that  $T_A f \notin L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $\frac{1}{q(\cdot)} = \frac{1}{p(\cdot)} - \frac{\alpha}{n}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $p$  is continuous at  $y_0$ , there exists ball  $B = B(y_0, r)$  such that  $p(y) \sim p(y_0)$  for  $y \in B$ . We have that  $p(y_0) < p(Ay_0)$ . In this case we take

$$f(y) = \frac{\chi_B(y)}{|y - y_0|^\beta},$$

for certain  $\beta < \frac{n}{p(y_0)}$  that will be chosen later. We will show that, for certain  $\beta$ ,  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  but  $T_A f \notin L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Indeed,

$$T_A f(x) = \int \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha}} f(y) dy = \int_B \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha} |y - y_0|^\beta} dy,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \int (T_A f(x))^{q(x)} dx &= \int \left( \int_B \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha} |y - y_0|^\beta} dy \right)^{q(x)} dx \\ &\geq \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \int_B \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha} |y - y_0|^\beta} dy \right)^{q(x)} dx \\ &\geq \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \int_{B \cap \{y: |Ay - Ay_0| < |Ay_0 - x|\}} \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha} |y - y_0|^\beta} dy \right)^{q(x)} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we denote by  $M = \|A\| = \sup_{\|y\|=1} |Ay|$ . Now for  $\varepsilon < Mr$  and  $x \in B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)$ ,

$B(y_0, \frac{1}{M}|Ay_0 - x|) \subset B \cap \{y: |Ay - Ay_0| < |Ay_0 - x|\}$ . Indeed,  $|y - y_0| \leq \frac{1}{M}|Ay_0 - x| \leq \frac{1}{M}\varepsilon \leq r$  and  $|Ay - Ay_0| \leq M|y - y_0| \leq |Ay_0 - x|$ , so

$$\geq \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \int_{B(y_0, \frac{1}{M}|Ay_0 - x|)} \frac{1}{|x - Ay|^{n-\alpha} |y - y_0|^\beta} dy \right)^{q(x)} dx,$$

also, for  $y \in B(y_0, \frac{1}{M}|Ay_0 - x|)$

$$|x - Ay| \leq |x - Ay_0| + |Ay_0 - Ay| \leq |x - Ay_0| + M|y_0 - y| \leq 2|x - Ay_0|,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \frac{1}{2^{n-\alpha} |x - Ay_0|^{n-\alpha}} \right)^{q(x)} \left( \int_{B(y_0, \frac{1}{M}|Ay_0 - x|)} \frac{1}{|y - y_0|^\beta} dy \right)^{q(x)} dx \\ &= \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \frac{1}{2^{n-\alpha} |x - Ay_0|^{n-\alpha}} \right)^{q(x)} \left( c |Ay_0 - x|^{-\beta+n} \right)^{q(x)} dx \\ &= \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \frac{c}{2^{n-\alpha} |x - Ay_0|^{\beta-\alpha}} \right)^{q(x)} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now, since  $q(Ay_0) > q(y_0)$ ,  $q(Ay_0) - \gamma > q(y_0)$  for  $\gamma = \frac{q(Ay_0) - q(y_0)}{2}$ . We observe that if  $\frac{1}{q(y_0)} = \frac{1}{p(y_0)} - \frac{\alpha}{n}$ , for  $\beta_0 = \frac{n}{p(y_0)}$ ,  $(\beta_0 - \alpha)q(y_0) = \left(\frac{n}{p(y_0)} - \alpha\right)q(y_0) = n$ , so since  $q(Ay_0) - \gamma > q(y_0)$ , we obtain that  $\left(\frac{n}{p(y_0)} - \alpha\right)(q(Ay_0) - \gamma) > n$  and still  $(\beta - \alpha) \cdot (q(Ay_0) - \gamma) > n$  for  $\beta = \frac{n}{p(y_0)} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{n}{p(y_0)} - \left(\alpha + \frac{n}{q(Ay_0) - \gamma}\right)\right)$ . So  $\beta = \frac{n}{p(y_0)}(1 - \delta)$  for some  $\delta > 0$ . Since  $q$  is continuous, we chose  $\varepsilon$  so that, for  $x \in B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)$ ,  $q(x) > q(Ay_0) - \gamma$  and  $\frac{c}{2^{n-\alpha}|x-Ay_0|^{\beta-\alpha}} > 1$  so this last integral is bounded from below by

$$c \int_{B(Ay_0, \varepsilon)} \left( \frac{1}{|x - Ay_0|^{\beta - \alpha}} \right)^{q(Ay_0) - \gamma} dx = \infty.$$

For this  $\beta$  we chose  $r$  to obtain that the ball  $B = B(y_0, r) \subset \left\{y : p(y) < \frac{p(y_0)}{1 - \delta}\right\}$ . In this way we obtain that  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  but  $T_A f \notin L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .  $\square$

**COROLLARY 5.** *If  $A^N = I$  for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p$  is continuous and  $T_A$  is bounded from  $L^{p(\cdot)}$  into  $L^{q(\cdot)}$ , then  $p(Ay) = p(y)$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .*

*Proof.* We suppose that  $p(Ay_0) < p(y_0)$ . Since  $p$  is continuous in  $y_0$ , by the last proposition,

$$p(Ay_0) < p(y_0) = p(A^N y_0) \leq p(A^{N-1} y_0) \leq \dots \leq p(Ay_0) = p(y_0)$$

which is a contradiction.  $\square$

### 3. The main results

Given  $0 \leq \alpha < n$ , we recall that we are studying fractional type integral operators of the form

$$T_\alpha f(x) = \int k(x, y) f(y) dy, \quad (4)$$

$f \in L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , with a kernel

$$k(x, y) = \frac{1}{|x - A_1 y|^{\alpha_1}} \cdots \frac{1}{|x - A_m y|^{\alpha_m}},$$

$$\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_m = n - \alpha, \quad 0 < \alpha_i < n.$$

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  be invertible matrices such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Let  $T_\alpha$  be the integral operator given by (4), let  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be such that  $1 \leq p_- \leq p_+ < \frac{n}{\alpha}$  and such that  $p(A_i x) = p(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Let  $q(\cdot)$  be defined by  $\frac{1}{p(x)} - \frac{1}{q(x)} = \frac{\alpha}{n}$ . If the maximal operator  $\mathcal{M}$  is bounded on  $L^{\left(\frac{n - \alpha p_-}{np_-}, q(\cdot)\right)'}$  then there exists  $c > 0$  such that*

$$\|\mathcal{I}\chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f(x) > t\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq c \|f\|_{p(\cdot)},$$

$f \in L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

REMARK 7. *With the hypothesis of Theorem 6, if  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , the integral in (4) converges a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we still call it  $T_\alpha f(x)$  and we have that there exists  $c > 0$  such that*

$$\|\lambda \chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f(x) > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq c \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}, \quad f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

*Proof.* We take  $f \geq 0$  and a sequence  $f_n \in L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that  $f_n(x) \nearrow f(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $T_\alpha f_n(x) \nearrow T_\alpha f(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and then

$$\chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f_n(x) > \lambda\}}(x) \rightarrow \chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f(x) > \lambda\}}(x),$$

and so by Fatou's Lemma, (see Th. 2.61, p.46 [2])

$$\begin{aligned} \|\lambda \chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f(x) > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} &= \|\liminf \lambda \chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f_n(x) > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} \\ &\leq \liminf \|\lambda \chi_{\{x: T_\alpha f_n(x) > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq \liminf \|f_n\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}. \end{aligned}$$

For general  $f$ , as usual, we write  $f = f^+ - f^-$ .  $\square$

THEOREM 8. *Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  be invertible matrices such that  $A_i - A_j$  is invertible for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Let  $T_\alpha$  be the integral operator given by (4), let  $p: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [1, \infty)$  be such that  $1 < p_- \leq p_+ < \frac{n}{\alpha}$  and such that  $p(A_i x) = p(x)$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Let  $q(\cdot)$  be defined by  $\frac{1}{p(x)} - \frac{1}{q(x)} = \frac{\alpha}{n}$ . If the maximal operator  $\mathcal{M}$  is bounded on  $L^{\left(\frac{n-\alpha p_-}{np_-}, q(\cdot)\right)'}$  then  $T_\alpha$  is bounded from  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  into  $L^{q(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .*

#### 4. Proofs of the main results

LEMMA 9. *If  $f \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $A$  an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix then*

$$\mathcal{M}(f \circ A)(x) \leq c(\mathcal{M}(f) \circ A)(x).$$

*Proof.* Indeed,

$$\mathcal{M}(f \circ A) = \sup_B \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |(f \circ A)(y)| dy,$$

where the supremum is taken over all balls  $B$  containing  $x$ . By a change of variable we see that,

$$\frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |(f \circ A)(y)| dy = |\det(A^{-1})| \frac{1}{|B|} \int_{A(B)} |f(z)| dz,$$

where  $A(B) = \{Ay : y \in B\}$ . Now, if  $y \in B = B(x_0, r)$  then  $|Ay - Ax_0| \leq M|y - x_0| \leq Mr$ , where  $M = \|A\|$ . That is  $Ay \in \tilde{B} = B(Ax_0, Mr)$ . So

$$\leq \frac{M^n |\det(A^{-1})|}{|\tilde{B}|} \int_{\tilde{B}} f(z) dz \leq M^n |\det(A^{-1})| \mathcal{M} f(Ax).$$

Therefore we obtain that,

$$\mathcal{M}(f \circ A) \leq c(\mathcal{M}(f) \circ A),$$

with  $c = M^n |\det(A^{-1})|$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 6.* We take  $f \in L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In [7] (See page 459) the authors prove that there exists  $c > 0$  such that,

$$\sup_{\lambda > 0} \lambda (\omega^{q_0} \{x : |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\})^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \leq \sup_{\lambda > 0} \lambda \left( \omega^{q_0} \{x : \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > c\lambda\} \right)^{\frac{1}{q_0}}$$

for all  $\omega \in \mathcal{A}_\infty$  and  $f \in L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Let  $F_\lambda = \lambda^{q_0} \chi_{\{x : |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\}}$  the last inequality implies that,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_\lambda(x) \omega(x)^{q_0} dx \leq \sup_{\lambda > 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda^{q_0} \chi_{\{x : \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > c\lambda\}} \omega(x)^{q_0} dx \quad (5)$$

for some  $c > 0$  and for all  $\omega \in \mathcal{A}_\infty$ . Now by proposition 2.18 in [2], if  $\tilde{q}(\cdot) = \frac{q(\cdot)}{q_0}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\lambda \chi_{\{x : |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\}\|_{q(\cdot)}^{q_0} &= \|\lambda^{q_0} \chi_{\{x : |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\}\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)} \\ &= \|F_\lambda\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)} \leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)}=1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_\lambda(x) h(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

We define an iteration algorithm on  $L^{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$  by

$$\mathcal{R}h(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(x)}{2^k \|\mathcal{M}\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}^k}, \quad (6)$$

where, for  $k \geq 1$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^k$  denotes  $k$  iteration of the maximal operator  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^0(h) = |h|$ . We will check that

- a)  $|h(x)| \leq \mathcal{R}h(x)$   $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,
- b) For all  $j : 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\|\mathcal{R}h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq c \|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$ ,
- c) For all  $j : 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \circ A_j \in \mathcal{A}(p_-, q_0)$

Indeed, a) is evident from the definition. To verify b),

$$\|\mathcal{R}h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\|\mathcal{M}^k h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}}{2^k \|\mathcal{M}\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}}^k$$

and

$$\|\mathcal{M}^k h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(A_j x)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}(x)'} dx \leq 1 \right\}.$$

But, by a change of variable and using the hypothesis on the exponent,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(A_j x)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}(x)'} dx = |\det(A_j^{-1})| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(y)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}(A_j^{-1}y)'} dy,$$

put  $D = \max \{ |\det(A_j^{-1})|, j = 1 \dots m \}$

$$\leq D \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(y)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}'(y)} dy. \quad (7)$$

If  $D \leq 1$ ,

$$\|\mathcal{M}^k h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq \|\mathcal{M}^k h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$$

So,

$$\|\mathcal{R}h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\|\mathcal{M}^k h(x)\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}}{2^k \|\mathcal{M}\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}} \leq \|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k} = 2 \|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$$

If  $D > 1$  then from (7) it follows that

$$D \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(y)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}'(y)} dy = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{M^k h(y)}{\lambda C^{\frac{1}{\tilde{q}'(y)}}} \right)^{\tilde{q}'(y)} dy$$

and  $D = \frac{1}{C}$  where  $C = \min \{ |\det(A_j)|, j = 1 \dots m \}$ . So,

$$\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{M^k h(y)}{\lambda C^{\frac{1}{\tilde{q}'(y)}}} \right)^{\tilde{q}'(y)} dy.$$

That is,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^k h(A_j x)}{\lambda} \right)^{\tilde{q}(x)'} dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{M^k h(x)}{\lambda C^{\frac{1}{\tilde{q}'(x)}}} \right)^{\tilde{q}(x)'} dx.$$

From this last inequality it follows that

$$\|\mathcal{M}^k h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq D^{\frac{1}{\tilde{q}'(x)}} \|\mathcal{M}^k h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$$

and so  $b)$  is verified with  $c = 2D^{\frac{1}{\tilde{q}'(x)}}$ . To see  $c)$ , by Lemma 9,

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \circ A_j)(x) \leq c \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}})(A_j x)$$



$\mathcal{R}h \in \mathcal{A}_1$  (see [2]) implies that  $\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \in \mathcal{A}_1$  and so,

$$\leq c \mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(A_j x) = c(\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \circ A_j)(x).$$

Then c) follows since a weight  $\omega \in \mathcal{A}_1$  implies that  $\omega \in \mathcal{A}(p_-, q_0)$ .

And so,

$$\begin{aligned} c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_\lambda(x) h(x) dx &\leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_\lambda(x) \mathcal{R}h(x) dx \\ &= c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_\lambda(x) (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(x))^{q_0} dx, \end{aligned}$$

and by (5), since  $\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \in \mathcal{A}(p_-, q_0)$  and  $Rh \in \mathcal{A}_1 \subset \mathcal{A}_\infty$ ,

$$\leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda^{q_0} \chi_{\{x: \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > c\lambda\}} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(x))^{q_0} dx.$$

Since,

$$\left\{ x : \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > c\lambda \right\} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m \left\{ x : \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > \frac{c\lambda}{m} \right\}$$

then,

$$\chi_{\{x: \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > c\lambda\}} \leq \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_{\{x: \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > \frac{c\lambda}{m}\}},$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda^{q_0} \chi_{\{x: \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > \frac{c\lambda}{m}\}} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(x))^{q_0} dx \\ &= c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\{x: \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > \frac{c\lambda}{m}\}} \lambda^{q_0} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(x))^{q_0} dx \\ &= c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda^{q_0} |\det(A_i)| \int_{A_i^{-1}\{x: \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(A_i^{-1}x) > \frac{c\lambda}{m}\}} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(A_i y))^{q_0} dy, \\ &\leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda^{q_0} \int_{\{y: \mathcal{M}_\alpha f(y) > \frac{c\lambda}{m}\}} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}}(A_i y))^{q_0} dy \\ &\leq c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(y)|^{p_-} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{p_-}{q_0}}(A_i y)) dy \right)^{\frac{q_0}{p_-}} \\ &= c \sup_{\|h\|_{\vec{q}(\cdot)}=1} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(y)|^{p_-} (\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{p_-}{q_0}}(A_i y)) dy \right)^{\frac{q_0}{p_-}}. \end{aligned}$$

We denote by  $\tilde{p}(\cdot) = \frac{p(\cdot)}{p_-}$ . Holder's inequality, 2) and Proposition 2.18 in [2] and again the hypothesis about  $\tilde{A}_i$  and  $p$  give

$$\begin{aligned} \|\lambda \chi_{\{x: |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)}^{q_0} &\leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}^{p_-} \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} \sum_{j=1}^m \left\| \left( \mathcal{R}h^{\frac{p_-}{q_0}} \right) \circ A_j \right\|_{\tilde{p}(\cdot)'}^{\frac{q_0}{p_-}} \\ &\leq \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} C m \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}^{q_0} \|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}^{q_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Now  $f$  is bounded and with compact support, so  $T_\alpha f \in L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $\frac{n}{n-\alpha} < s < \infty$ , (see Lemma 2.2 in [7]) thus  $\|\lambda \chi_{\{x: |T_\alpha f(x)| > \lambda\}}\|_{q(\cdot)} < \infty$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 7.* In the paper [7] the authors obtain an estimate of the form

$$\int (T_\alpha f)^p(x) w(x) dx \leq c \sum_{j=1}^m \int (\mathcal{M}_\alpha f)^p(x) w(A_j x) dx, \quad (8)$$

for any  $w \in \mathcal{A}_\infty$  and  $0 < p < \infty$  (See the last lines of page 454 in [7]). We denote  $\tilde{q}(\cdot) = \frac{q(\cdot)}{q_0}$ , we define an iteration algorithm on  $L^{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$  as in the last proof (see (6)). We have a) For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $|h(x)| \leq \mathcal{R}h(x)$ ,

b) For all  $j : 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\|\mathcal{R}h \circ A_j\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'} \leq c \|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}$ ,

c) For all  $j : 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \circ A_j \in \mathcal{A}(p_-, q_0)$ .

We now take a bounded function  $f$  with compact support. So as in Theorem 5.24 in [2],

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_\alpha f\|_{q(\cdot)}^{q_0} &= \|(T_\alpha f)^{q_0}\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)} = C \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} \int (T_\alpha f)^{q_0}(x) h(x) dx \\ &\leq C \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} \int (T_\alpha f)^{q_0}(x) \mathcal{R}h(x) dx \\ &\leq C \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} \sum_{j=1}^m \int (\mathcal{M}_\alpha f)^{q_0}(x) \mathcal{R}h(A_j x) dx \\ &\leq C \sup_{\|h\|_{\tilde{q}(\cdot)'}=1} \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \int |f(x)|^{p_-} \mathcal{R}h^{\frac{p_-}{q_0}}(A_j x) dx \right)^{\frac{q_0}{p_-}}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows since  $\mathcal{R}h^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \circ A_i$  are weights in  $\mathcal{A}(p_-, q_0)$  (by c). Now, following as in the last proof,

$$\leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}^{q_0}.$$

Also, as in the last proof, we show that  $\|T_\alpha f\|_{q(\cdot)} < \infty$ . The theorem follows since bounded functions with compact support are dense in  $L^{p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  (See Corollary 2.73 in [2]).  $\square$

*Acknowledgement.* We are deeply indebted with Prof. Pablo Rocha for his useful suggestions.

## REFERENCES

- [1] CAPONE C., CRUZ URIBE D., FIORENZA A., *The fractional maximal operator and fractional integrals on variable  $L^p$  spaces*, Rev. Mat. Iberoamericana 2, no. 3, 743–770, 2007.
- [2] CRUZ URIBE D., FIORENZA A., *Variable Lebesgue Spaces*, Foundations and Harmonic Analysis, Birkhäuser, 2013.
- [3] CRUZ URIBE D., FIORENZA A., NEUGEBAUER C. J., *The maximal function on variable  $L^p$  spaces*, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Math. 28(1), 223–238, 2003.
- [4] DIENING L., HARJULEHTO P., HÄSTÖ P., RŮŽIČKA M., *Lebesgue and Sobolev Spaces with variable exponents*, Lecture Notes in Mathematics 2017, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2011.
- [5] MUCKENHOUPT B., WHEEDEN R. L., *Weighted norm inequalities for fractional integrals*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 192, 261–274, 1974.
- [6] ROCHA P., URUIUOLO M., *About integral operators of fractional type on variable  $L^p$  spaces*, Georgian Math. J. 20, 805–816, 2013.
- [7] RIVEROS M. S., URUIUOLO M., *Weighted inequalities for fractional type operators with some homogeneous kernels*, Acta Mathematica Sinica 29, No 3, 449–460, 2013.
- [8] URUIUOLO M., VALLEJOS L.,  *$L^{p(\cdot)} - L^{q(\cdot)}$  boundedness of some integral operators obtained by extrapolation techniques*, Georgian Math. J., to appear.

(Received September 20, 2018)

Marta Susana Urciuolo  
Famaf, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba  
Ciem, Conicet  
Ciudad Universitaria, 5000 Córdoba, Argentina  
e-mail: urciuolo@gmail.com

Lucas Alejandro Vallejos  
Famaf, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba  
Ciem, Conicet  
Ciudad Universitaria, 5000 Córdoba, Argentina  
e-mail: lvallejos@famaf.unc.edu.ar