ON THE $H^1–L^1$ BOUNDEDNESS OF OPERATORS

STEFANO MEDA, PETER SJÖGREN, AND MARIA VALLARINO

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Abstract. We prove that if $q$ is in $(1, \infty)$, $Y$ is a Banach space, and $T$ is a linear operator defined on the space of finite linear combinations of $(1, q)$-atoms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ with the property that

$$\sup \{ \| Ta \|_Y : a \text{ is a } (1, q)\text{-atom} \} < \infty,$$

then $T$ admits a (unique) continuous extension to a bounded linear operator from $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $Y$. We show that the same is true if we replace $(1, q)$-atoms by continuous $(1, \infty)$-atoms. This is known to be false for $(1, \infty)$-atoms.

1. Introduction

In a recent paper, M. Bownik [3] showed that there exists a linear functional $F$ defined on finite linear combinations of $(1, \infty)$-atoms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ with the property that

$$\sup \{|F(a)| : a \text{ is a } (1, \infty)\text{-atom} \} < \infty,$$

but which does not admit a continuous extension to $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$. If $v$ is a fixed function in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \setminus \{0\}$, then the operator $B$, defined on finite linear combinations of $(1, \infty)$-atoms by $Bf = F(f)v$, satisfies

$$\sup \{ \| Ba \|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} : a \text{ is a } (1, \infty)\text{-atom} \} < \infty$$

but does not admit an extension to a bounded operator from $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$. This shows that the argument “the operator $T$ maps $(1, \infty)$-atoms uniformly into $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and hence it extends to a bounded operator from $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$” is fallacious.

Fortunately, if $T$ is a Calderón–Zygmund operator, then the uniform boundedness of $T$ on $(1, \infty)$-atoms implies the boundedness from $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (see, for instance, [11] Ch. 7.3, Lemma 1, [2] Ch. 1.9, [7] Ch. III.7 and [8] Thm 6.7.1). The purpose of this paper is to show that the operator $B$ constructed above is, to a certain extent, pathological. Indeed, we prove that if $q$ is in $(1, \infty)$, $Y$ is a Banach space, and $T$ is a linear operator defined on finite linear combinations of $(1, q)$-atoms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ with the property that

$$\sup \{ \| Ta \|_Y : a \text{ is a } (1, q)\text{-atom} \} < \infty,$$

then $T$ admits a unique continuous extension to a bounded linear operator from $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to $Y$. The same conclusion holds if we assume that $T$ is a linear operator

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on finite linear combinations of continuous \((1, \infty)\)-atoms in \(\mathbb{R}^n\) with the property that

\[(1.2) \quad \sup \{ \|Ta\|_Y : a \text{ is a continuous } (1, \infty)\text{-atom} \} < \infty.\]

Note that this does not contradict Bownik’s example. Indeed, the restriction of the operator \(B\) to continuous \((1, \infty)\)-atoms extends to a bounded operator \(\tilde{B}\) from \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\) to \(L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\). However, \(B\) and \(\tilde{B}\) will agree on continuous \((1, \infty)\)-atoms but not on all \((1, \infty)\)-atoms.

To explain the idea of the proofs of these results, we need more notation. Suppose that \(q\) is in \((1, \infty]\), and denote by \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) the vector space of all finite linear combinations of \((1, q)\)-atoms. Notice that \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) consists of all \(L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)\) functions with compact support and integral 0. Clearly, \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) is a dense subspace of \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\). We may define a norm on \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) as follows:

\[
\|f\|_{H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^N |\lambda_j| : f = \sum_{j=1}^N \lambda_j a_j, \text{ } a_j \text{ is a } (1, q)\text{-atom}, N \in \mathbb{N} \right\}.
\]

Obviously \(\|f\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|f\|_{H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) for every \(f\) in \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\). An example due to Y. Meyer (see [12, p. 513], Bownik’s paper [3] or [7, p. 370]) shows that \(\|\cdot\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) and \(\|\cdot\|_{H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) are inequivalent norms on \(H^{1,\infty}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\). This is the starting point of Bownik’s construction.

We prove that Meyer’s example itself is somewhat exceptional. Indeed, by using the maximal characterisation of \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\), we show that if \(q < \infty\), then \(\|\cdot\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) and \(\|\cdot\|_{H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) are equivalent norms on \(H^{1,\infty}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) (see Section 3). Similarly, we prove that \(\|\cdot\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) and \(\|\cdot\|_{H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\) are equivalent norms on \(H^{1,\infty}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n)\). This immediately implies that operators defined on \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)\) which have either property (1.1) or property (1.2) automatically extend to bounded operators from \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\) to \(L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\).

As discussed briefly in Section 3, this equivalence of norms remains true for \(H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)\) with \(0 < p < 1\) and \((p, q)\)-atoms.

The extension property for operators was also proved, by different methods, for \(0 < p \leq 1\) and \((p, 2)\)-atoms and operators taking values in quasi-Banach spaces, by D. Yang and Y. Zhou [17].

A theory of Hardy spaces has been developed in spaces of homogeneous type; see R.R. Coifman and G. Weiss [4]. It is, however, not evident whether our results extend to this case in general. Nevertheless, let \(M\) be such a space. By a simple functional analysis argument, we show that if \(q\) is in \((1, \infty)\) and \(T\) is an operator defined on \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(M)\) satisfying the analogue of (1.1), then \(T\) automatically extends to a bounded operator from \(H^1(M)\) to \(L^1(M)\) (see Section 4). It may be worth noticing that the proof of this result also applies to certain metric measured spaces \((M, \rho, \mu)\) where \(\mu\) is only “locally doubling” [10], [4], and [16].

For so-called RD-spaces, which are spaces of homogeneous type having “dimension \(n\)” in a certain sense, our complete results were recently extended in the paper [9] by L. Grafakos, L. Liu and Yang. These authors consider \(n/(n+1) < p \leq 1\) and quasi-Banach-valued operators.

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2. Notation and terminology

Suppose that \((M, \rho, \mu)\) is a space of homogeneous type in the sense of Coifman and Weiss [5] and that \(\mu\) is a \(\sigma\)-finite measure. For the sake of simplicity, we shall assume that \(\mu(M)\) is infinite.

Suppose that \(q\) is in \((1, \infty]\). For each closed ball \(B\) in \(M\), we denote by \(L^q_0(B)\) the space of all functions in \(L^q(M)\) which are supported in \(B\) and have integral 0. Clearly \(L^q_0(B)\) is a closed subspace of \(L^q(M)\). The union of all spaces \(L^q_0(B)\) as \(B\) varies over all balls coincides with the space \(L^q_{c,0}(M)\) of all functions in \(L^q(M)\) with compact support and integral 0. Fix a reference point \(o\) in \(M\) and each positive integer \(k\) denote by \(B_k\) the ball centred at \(o\) with radius \(k\). A convenient way of topologising \(L^q_{c,0}(M)\) is to interpret \(L^q_{c,0}(M)\) as the strict inductive limit of the spaces \(L^q_{c,0}(B_k)\) (see [1, II, p. 33] for the definition of the strict inductive limit topology). We denote by \(X^q\) the space \(L^q_{c,0}(M)\) with this topology, and write \(X^q_k\) for \(L^q_{c,0}(B_k)\).

We recall the basic definitions and results concerning the atomic Hardy space \(H^1\). The reader is referred to [5] and the references therein for this and more on Hardy spaces defined on spaces of homogeneous type. Suppose that \(q\) is in \((1, \infty]\). A \((1, q)\)-atom is a function \(a\) in \(L^q(M)\) supported in a ball \(B\), with mean value 0 and such that

\[
\left( \frac{1}{\mu(B)} \int_B |a|^q \, d\mu \right)^{1/q} \leq \mu(B)^{-1}
\]

if \(q\) is finite, and \(\|a\|_\infty \leq \mu(B)^{-1}\) if \(q = \infty\). We denote by \(H^{1,q}(M)\) the space of all functions \(g\) in \(L^1(M)\) which admit a decomposition of the form \(g = \sum \lambda_j a_j\), where the \(a_j\) are \((1, q)\)-atoms and the \(\lambda_j\) are complex numbers such that \(\sum |\lambda_j| < \infty\). The norm \(\|g\|_{H^{1,q}}\) of \(g\) in \(H^{1,q}(M)\) is the infimum of \(\sum |\lambda_j|\) over all such decompositions. It is well known that all the spaces \(H^{1,q}(M)\) with \(q \in (1, \infty]\) coincide with \(H^{1,\infty}(M)\), and we denote them all by \(H^1(M)\). Clearly, the vector space \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(M)\) of all finite linear combinations of \((1, q)\)-atoms is dense in \(H^1(M)\) with respect to the norm of \(H^1(M)\), for \(q\) in \((1, \infty]\). Observe also that \(H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(M)\) and \(L^q_{c,0}(M)\) agree as vector spaces, and so do the space of finite linear combinations of continuous \((1, \infty)\)-atoms and \(H^{1,\infty}_{\text{fin}}(M) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n)\).

For each ball \(B\) and each locally integrable function \(f\), we denote by \(f_B\) the average of \(f\) on \(B\). Recall that \(BMO\) is the Banach space of all locally integrable functions \(f\), defined modulo constants, such that

\[
\|f\|_{BMO} = \sup_B \frac{1}{\mu(B)} \int_B |f - f_B| \, d\mu < \infty.
\]

The dual of \(H^1(M)\) may be identified with \(BMO\).

There are several characterisations of the space \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\). We shall make use of the so-called maximal characterisation, which we briefly recall. Suppose that \(m\) is an integer with \(m > n\), and denote by \(\mathcal{A}_m\) the set of all functions \(\varphi\) in the Schwartz space \(S(\mathbb{R}^n)\) such that

\[
\sup_{|\beta| \leq m} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} (1 + |x|)^m |D^\beta \varphi(x)| \leq 1,
\]

where \(|\beta|\) denotes the length of the multi-index \(\beta\). For \(\varphi\) in \(S(\mathbb{R}^n)\) denote by \(\varphi_t\) the function \(t^{-n} \varphi(\cdot / t)\). Given \(f\) in \(L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)\), define the “grand maximal function”
\[ \mathcal{M}_m f \text{ by} \]
\[ \mathcal{M}_m f = \sup_{\varphi \in \mathcal{A}_m} \sup_{t > 0} |\varphi_t * f|. \]

The following result is classical [6], [13], [7], and [15].

**Theorem 2.1.** Suppose that \( f \) is in \( L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \). The following are equivalent:

(i) \( f \) is in \( H^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \);

(ii) the grand maximal function \( \mathcal{M}_m f \) is in \( L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \).

Furthermore, \( f \mapsto \| \mathcal{M}_m f \|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) is an equivalent norm on \( H^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \).

The letter \( C \) will denote a positive constant, which need not be the same at different occurrences. Given two positive quantities \( A \) and \( B \), we shall mean by \( A \sim B \) that there exists a constant \( C \) such that \( 1/C \leq A/B \leq C \).

### 3. The Euclidean case

In this section we work in the classical setting of \( \mathbb{R}^n \).

**Theorem 3.1.** The following hold:

(i) if \( q < \infty \), then \( \| \cdot \|_{H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) and \( \| \cdot \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) are equivalent norms on \( H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n) \); 

(ii) the two norms \( \| \cdot \|_{H_{\text{fin}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) and \( \| \cdot \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) are equivalent on \( H_{\text{fin}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n) \).

**Proof.** Clearly, \( \| f \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \| f \|_{H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \) for \( f \) in \( H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n) \) and for \( q \) in \((1, \infty)\]. Thus, we have to show that for every \( q \) in \((1, \infty)\] there exists a constant \( C \) such that

\[ \| f \|_{H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \| f \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad \forall f \in H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n), \]

and that a similar estimate holds for \( q = \infty \) and all \( f \) in \( H_{\text{fin}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n) \).

Suppose that \( q \) is in \((1, \infty)\] and that \( f \) is in \( H_{\text{fin}}^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^n) \) with \( \| f \|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} = 1 \). By the translation invariance of Lebesgue measure, we may assume that the support of \( f \) is contained in the closed ball \( B = B(0, R) \) centred at 0 with radius \( R \). For each \( k \) in \( \mathbb{Z} \), denote by \( \Omega_k \) the level set \( \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathcal{M}_m f(x) > 2^k \} \) of the grand maximal function \( \mathcal{M}_m f \) of \( f \). We choose Whitney cubes \( Q^k_i, i \in \mathbb{N} \), with disjoint interiors satisfying \( \Omega_k = \bigcup_i Q^k_i \) and

\[ \text{diam}(Q^k_i) \leq \eta \text{ dist}(Q^k_i, \Omega_k) \leq 4 \text{ diam}(Q^k), \]

where \( \eta \) is a suitable constant in \((0, 1)\]. Except for the factor \( \eta \), this is Theorem VI.1 of [14] p. 167. The only modification needed in the proof of [14] concerns the choice of the constant denoted \( c \).

By following closely the proof of [15] Theorem III.2, p. 107] or [13] Theorem 3.5, pp. 12-18, we produce an atomic decomposition of \( f \) of the form

\[ f = \sum_{i,k} \lambda^k_i a^k_i, \]

such that the following hold:

(a) \( |\lambda^k_i a^k_i| \leq C 2^k \) for every \( k \) in \( \mathbb{Z} \); 

(b) for each \( k \) in \( \mathbb{Z} \), the atoms \( a^k_i \) are supported in balls \( B^k_i \) concentric with the \( Q^k_i \) and contained in \( \Omega_k \). By choosing the constant \( \eta \) in (3.1) small enough, depending on the dimension, we can also ensure that the family \( \{ B^k_i \} \) has the bounded overlap property, uniformly with respect to \( k \);
(c) there exists a constant $C$ independent of $f$ such that 
$$
\sum_{i,k} |\lambda_i^k| \leq C \|f\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} = C.
$$

We write $2B$ for the closed ball concentric with $B$ whose radius is twice as large. For $\varphi$ in $A_m$ and $x$ in $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus (2B)$ one then has
$$
|\varphi_t * f(x)| \leq t^{-n} \sup_{y \in B^c} |\varphi(y/t)| \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}
\leq t^{-n} (1 + R/t)^{-m} \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}^+,
$$
so that
$$
\mathcal{M}_m f(x) = \sup_{\varphi \in A_m} \sup_{t > R} |\varphi_t * f(x)| \leq R^{-n},
$$
since $m > n$. Now, if $x$ is in $\Omega_k \setminus (2B)$, the above inequality and the definition of $\Omega_k$ force $2k < R^{-n}$; denote by $k'$ the largest integer $k$ such that $2k < R^{-n}$. Then $\Omega_k$ is contained in $2B$ for $k > k'$. Next we define the functions $h$ and $\ell$ by
$$
h = \sum_{k > k'} \sum_i \lambda_i^k a_i^k \quad \text{and} \quad \ell = \sum_{k > k'} \sum_i \lambda_i^k a_i^k.
$$
Observe that both these series converge in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$, simply because $\sum_{i,k} |\lambda_i^k| < \infty$, so that $h$ and $\ell$ have integral $0$. Clearly, $f = h + \ell$. Furthermore, the support of $\ell$ is contained in $2B$, because it is contained in $\Omega_k$ by (b) above, and $\Omega_k$ is contained in $2B$ for all $k > k'$. Therefore $h = f = 0$ in $(2B)^c$.

To estimate the size of $h$ in $2B$, we use (a) above and the bounded overlap property of (b), getting
$$
|h| \leq C \sum_{k \leq k'} 2^{k} \leq C 2^{k'} \leq C |2B|^{-1}.
$$
This proves that $h/C$ is a $(1, \infty)$-atom, where $C$ is independent of $f$.

Now we assume that $q < \infty$ and conclude the proof of (i). Observe that $\ell$ is in $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$, because $\ell = f - h$, and both $f$ and $h$ are in $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

We claim that the series $\sum_{k > k'} \sum_i \lambda_i^k a_i^k$ converges to $\ell$ in $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Fixing $s$ in $\mathbb{Z}$, we shall estimate
$$
\sum_{k > k'} \sum_i |\lambda_i^k a_i^k| \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega_s \setminus \Omega_{s+1}.
$$
First observe that all terms with $k > s$ vanish outside $\Omega_{s+1}$. Then apply (a) and (b) to get the pointwise bound
$$
\sum_{k > k'} \sum_i |\lambda_i^k a_i^k| \leq C \sum_{k \leq s} 2^{k} \leq C 2^s \leq C \mathcal{M}_m f.
$$
The constants $C$ above are independent of $f$ and $s$, so that
$$
\sum_{k > k'} \sum_i |\lambda_i^k a_i^k| \leq C \mathcal{M}_m f
$$
in all of $\mathbb{R}^n$, with $C$ independent of $f$. Note that $\mathcal{M}_m f$ is in $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$, since $f$ is. This implies that the series defining $\ell$ converges almost everywhere and the limit must coincide with the $L^1$ limit $\ell$. The Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem now implies that $\sum_{k > k'} \sum_i \lambda_i^k a_i^k$ converges to $\ell$ in $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and the claim is proved.

Finally, for each positive integer $N$ we denote by $F_N$ the finite set of all pairs of integers $(i,k)$ such that $k > k'$ and $|i| + |k| \leq N$, and by $\ell_N$ the function
$$
\sum_{(i,k) \in F_N} \lambda_i^k a_i^k.
$$
The function $\ell_N$ is in $H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and $f = h + \ell_N + (\ell - \ell_N)$. 

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Observe that $\ell - \ell_N$ will be a small multiple of a $(1,q)$-atom for large $N$. Indeed, by taking $N$ large enough, we can make the corresponding coefficient less than any given $\varepsilon$ in $\mathbb{R}^+$. Then

$$
\|f\|_{H^1_{fin}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C + \sum_{(i,k) \in F_N} |\lambda^k_i| + \varepsilon,
$$

so that

$$
\|f\|_{H^1_{fin}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C + \sum_{(i,k) \in F_N} |\lambda^k_i| \leq C,
$$

by property (c) above, as required to conclude the proof of (i).

Now we finish the proof of (ii). Assume that $f$ is a continuous function in $H^1_{fin}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. A careful examination of the proof of [15] Theorem III.2, pp. 107-8 or [13] Theorem 3.5, pp. 12-18] shows that the atoms $a^k_i$ that appear in the decomposition \((3.3)\) are then continuous. Furthermore, we see that for each $k$ and $i$ the function $\lambda^k_i a^k_i$ depends only on the restriction of $f$ to a ball $\hat{B}^k_i$ which is a concentric enlargement of the ball $B^k_i$ from (b) above, by a fixed scaling factor. It is straightforward to check that if $f$ is constant in $\hat{B}^k_i$, then $\lambda^k_i a^k_i = 0$ and that there exists an absolute constant $C$ such that if $|f| < \varepsilon$ in $\hat{B}^k_i$, then $|\lambda^k_i a^k_i| < C \varepsilon$.

Since trivially $\mathcal{M}_n f \leq C_n \|f\|_\infty$, where the constant $C_n$ depends only on $n$, the level set $\Omega_k$ is empty for all $k$ such that $2^k \geq C_n \|f\|_\infty$. We denote by $k''$ the largest integer for which the last inequality does not hold. Then the index $k$ in the sum defining $\ell$ in \((3.3)\) will run only over $k' < k \leq k''$.

Let $\varepsilon$ be positive. Since $f$ is uniformly continuous, there exists a positive $\delta$ such that $|x - y| < \delta$ implies $|f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$.

Write $\ell = \ell_1^1 + \ell_2^2$ with

$$
\ell_1 = \sum_{(i,k) \in F_1} \lambda^k_i a^k_i \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_2 = \sum_{(i,k) \in F_2} \lambda^k_i a^k_i,
$$

where $F_1 = \{(i,k) : \text{diam}(\hat{B}^k_i) \geq \delta', k' < k \leq k''\}$ and $F_2 = \{(i,k) : \text{diam}(\hat{B}^k_i) < \delta, k' < k \leq k''\}$. Since $F_1$ is a finite set, $\ell_1$ is continuous.

To estimate $\ell_2$, we denote by $x^k_i$ the centre of the ball $B^k_i$ and write for $(i,k)$ in $F_2$

$$
f(x) = f(x^k_i) + f(x) - f(x^k_i).
$$

Then $|\lambda^k_i a^k_i| < C \varepsilon$, because $|f(x) - f(x^k_i)| < \varepsilon$ for $x$ in $\hat{B}^k_i$. For fixed $k$ the balls $\{B^k_i\}$, have uniformly bounded overlap, so there exists an absolute constant $C$ such that

$$
|\ell_2^2| \leq C \sum_{k' < k \leq k''} \varepsilon \leq C (k'' - k') \varepsilon.
$$

Since $\varepsilon$ is arbitrary, we can thus split $\ell$ into a continuous part and a part that is uniformly arbitrarily small. It follows that $\ell$ is continuous. But then $h = f - \ell$ is also continuous, so that $h$ is a continuous $(1, \infty)$-atom, multiplied by a factor $C$.

To find a finite atomic decomposition of $\ell$, we again use the splitting $\ell = \ell_1^1 + \ell_2^2$. Clearly $\ell_1$ is for each $\varepsilon$ a finite linear combination of continuous $(1, \infty)$-atoms, and the $\ell_2$ norm of the coefficients is controlled by $\|f\|_{H^1}$, in view of (c). Observe that $\ell_2^2 = \ell - \ell_1^1$ is continuous. Further, $\ell_2^2$ is supported in $2B$, has integral 0 and satisfies $|\ell_2^2| \leq C(k'' - k') \varepsilon$. Choosing $\varepsilon$, we can thus make $\ell_2^2$ into an arbitrarily small multiple of a continuous $(1, \infty)$-atom.
To sum up, \( f = h + \ell^1_j + \ell^2_k \) gives the desired finite atomic decomposition of \( f \), with coefficients controlled by \( \|f\|_{H^1} \).

We have completed the proof of (ii) and that of the theorem. \(\square\)

**Remark 3.2.** Theorem 3.1 (ii) implies that any function \( f \) in \( H^1_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n) \) admits a finite decomposition in \( (1, \infty) \)-atoms such that the sum of the corresponding coefficients is \( \leq C \|f\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \). Actually, the proof of Theorem 3.1 (ii) shows that we can construct this finite decomposition in such a way that it involves only continuous \( (1, \infty) \)-atoms.

**Remark 3.3.** Theorem 3.1 extends to \( H^p(\mathbb{R}^n) \) with \( 0 < p < 1 \) and \( (p,q) \)-atoms, where one can now have \( 1 \leq q \leq \infty \). The proof is rather similar to the one given above, so we only briefly describe the modifications needed for part (i). Thus let \( f \in H^p_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \) supported in a ball \( B_R \), the first step is the inequality \( M_m f \leq CR^{-n/p} \|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \), valid outside a larger ball \( B_{CR} \). One proves this by comparing the values of \( M_m f \) at different points and using the fact that \( \|M_m f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \sim \|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \). Then the \( \Omega_k \) and the decompositions \( f = \sum \lambda^k a^k = h + \ell \) are introduced as above. The sum \( \ell \) now converges in \( S' \) and is dominated by \( M_m f \). If \( q > 1 \), we have \( M_m f \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^n) \) and conclude as before that \( \ell \) converges in \( L^q(\mathbb{R}^n) \). For \( q = 1 \), the tail sum \( \Sigma_{k \geq \kappa} \sum_{i \in \Omega_k} a^k_i \) tends to 0 in \( L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \) as \( \kappa \rightarrow +\infty \), because \( \Sigma_{k \geq \kappa} \) is nonzero only in \( \Omega_k \) and not larger than \( |f| + C2^n \) there, and \( |\Omega_k| = o(2^{-\kappa}) \) as \( \kappa \rightarrow +\infty \). The rest of the proof proceeds as before. See also [9] Theorem 5.6).

**Corollary 3.4.** Suppose that \( Y \) is a Banach space and that one of the following holds:

(i) \( q \) is in \( (1, \infty) \) and \( T : H^1_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow Y \) is a linear operator such that 
\[
A := \sup\{\|Ta\|_Y : a \text{ is a } (1,q)\text{-atom}\} < \infty;
\]

(ii) \( T \) is a \( Y \)-valued linear operator defined on continuous \( (1, \infty) \)-atoms such that 
\[
A := \sup\{\|Ta\|_Y : a \text{ is a continuous } (1, \infty)\text{-atom}\} < \infty.
\]

Then there exists a unique bounded linear operator \( \overline{T} \) from \( H^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \) to \( Y \) which extends \( T \).

**Proof.** We consider the case (i). Suppose that \( f \) is in \( H^1_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \), \( f = \sum_{j=1}^N \lambda_j a_j \) say, where \( a_j \) are \( (1,q) \)-atoms. Then the assumption and the triangle inequality give 
\[
\|Tf\|_Y \leq A \sum_{j=1}^N |\lambda_j|.
\]

By taking the infimum of the right-hand side with respect to all decompositions of \( f \) as a finite sum of \( (1,q) \)-atoms, we obtain 
\[
\|Tf\|_Y \leq A \|f\|_{H^1_{\text{fin}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
\]

Now, Theorem 3.1 (i) implies that the right-hand side is dominated by \( CA\|f\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \), where \( C \) does not depend on \( f \), and a density argument completes the proof of the corollary.

The case (ii) is similar. \(\square\)
Remark 3.5. The statement of Corollary 3.4 (i) becomes false if we replace $q$ by $\infty$. A counterexample is given by the operator $B$ defined in the Introduction. Note also that Corollary 3.4 applies to linear functionals.

4. Results on spaces of homogeneous type

In this section, we work in a space of homogeneous type $(M, \rho, \mu)$. Recall that we assume that $\mu$ is $\sigma$-finite and that $\mu(M)$ is infinite.

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose that $q$ is in $(1, \infty)$ and that $T$ is a linear operator defined on $H^{1,q}_{\text{fin}}(M)$ with the property that
\[ A := \sup \{ \| Ta \|_{L^1(M)} : a \text{ is a } (1,q)\text{-atom} \} < \infty. \]
Then there exists a unique bounded linear operator $\tilde{T}$ from $H^1(M)$ to $L^1(M)$ which extends $T$.

**Proof.** We prove the result in the case where $q = 2$. The proof in the other cases is similar.

Suppose that $B$ is a ball. For each $f$ in $L^2_0(B)$ such that $\|f\|_{L^2(M)} = 1$, the function $\mu(B)^{-1/2} f$ is a $(1,2)$-atom, so that
\[ \|T f\|_{L^1(M)} \leq A \mu(B)^{1/2} \quad \forall f \in L^2_0(B) \]
by the assumption. In particular, the restriction of $T$ to $X^2_k$ is bounded from $X^2_k$ to $L^1(M)$ for each $k$. Thus, $T$ is bounded from $X^2$ to $L^1(M)$. It follows that $T^*$ is bounded from $L^\infty(M)$ to the dual of $X^2$. But the dual of $X^2$ is the quotient space $L^2_{\text{loc}}(M)/\mathbb{C}$, since that of $L^2_{\text{loc}}(B_k)$ is $L^2(B_k)/\mathbb{C}$. Now, for every $f$ in $L^\infty(M)$ and for every $(1,2)$-atom $a$,
\[ \langle Ta, f \rangle = \langle a, T^* f \rangle = \int_M a T^* f \, d\mu, \]
so that
\[ \left| \int_M a T^* f \, d\mu \right| = |\langle Ta, f \rangle| \leq A \|f\|_{\infty}. \]
A standard argument then shows that $T^* f$ belongs to $\text{BMO}(M)$ and that
\[ \|T^* f\|_{\text{BMO}(M)} \leq 2A \|f\|_{\infty} \quad \forall f \in L^\infty(M). \]
We give the details for the reader’s convenience. Suppose that $B$ is a ball and observe that
\[ \left[ \int_B |T^* f - (T^* f)_B|^2 \, d\mu \right]^{1/2} \leq \sup_{\|\varphi\|_{L^2(B)} = 1} \left| \int_B \varphi (T^* f - (T^* f)_B) \, d\mu \right|. \]
But
\[ \int_B \varphi (T^* f - (T^* f)_B) \, d\mu = \int_B (\varphi - \varphi_B) (T^* f - (T^* f)_B) \, d\mu = \int_B (\varphi - \varphi_B) T^* f \, d\mu, \]
and since $\|\varphi\|_{L^2(B)} = 1$,
\[ |\varphi_B| \leq \left[ \frac{1}{\mu(B)} \int_B |\varphi|^2 \, d\mu \right]^{1/2} \leq \mu(B)^{-1/2}. \]
Write $\psi$ instead of $\varphi - \varphi_B$. Then
\[ \|\psi\|_{L^2(B)} \leq \|\varphi\|_{L^2(B)} + |\varphi_B| \mu(B)^{1/2} \leq 2, \]
so that $\psi/(2 \mu(B)^{1/2})$ is a $(1,2)$-atom. Therefore
\[ \left| \int_B \psi T^* f \, d\mu \right| \leq 2A \mu(B)^{1/2} \|f\|_{\infty}. \]
Combining the above, we conclude that for every ball $B$
\[ \left[ \frac{1}{\mu(B)} \int_B |T^* f - (T^* f)_B|^2 \, d\mu \right]^{1/2} \leq 2A \|f\|_{\infty}, \]
and (4.1) follows.

Now we show that $T$ extends to a bounded operator from $H^1(M)$ to $L^1(M)$ with norm at most $2A$. Observe that $X^2$ and $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$ coincide as vector spaces. For every $g$ in $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$ and for every $f$ in $L^\infty(M)$
\[ |\langle Tg, f \rangle| = |\langle g, T^* f \rangle| \]
\[ \leq \|g\|_{H^1(M)} \|T^* f\|_{\text{BMO}(M)} \]
\[ \leq 2A \|g\|_{H^1(M)} \|f\|_{L^\infty(M)}. \]
By taking the supremum of both sides over all functions $f$ in $L^\infty(M)$ with $\|f\|_{L^\infty(M)} = 1$, we obtain that
\[ \|Tg\|_{L^1(M)} \leq 2A \|g\|_{H^1(M)} \quad \forall g \in H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M). \]
Finally we observe that $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$ is dense in $H^1(M)$ (with respect to the norm of $H^1(M)$), and the required conclusion follows by a density argument. 

Quite often one encounters the following situation. Suppose that $T$ is a bounded linear operator on $L^2(M)$. Then $T$ is automatically defined on $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$. Assume that
\[ A := \sup\{\|Ta\|_{L^1(M)} : a \text{ is a (1,2)-atom} \} < \infty. \]
By the previous result, the restriction of $T$ to $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$ has a unique extension to a bounded linear operator $\tilde{T}$ from $H^1(M)$ to $L^1(M)$. The question is whether the operators $T$ and $\tilde{T}$ are consistent, i.e., whether they coincide on the intersection $H^1(M) \cap L^2(M)$ of their domains. The answer to this question is in the affirmative, as the following proposition shows.

**Proposition 4.2.** Suppose that $T$ is bounded on $L^2(M)$ and that
\[ A := \sup\{\|Ta\|_{L^1(M)} : a \text{ is a (1,2)-atom} \} < \infty. \]
Denote by $\tilde{T}$ the unique continuous linear extension of the restriction of $T$ to $H_{\text{fin}}^{1,2}(M)$ to an operator from $H^1(M)$ to $L^1(M)$. Then the operators $T$ and $\tilde{T}$ agree on $H^1(M) \cap L^2(M)$.

**Proof.** Suppose that $f$ is in $L^2(M) \cap L^\infty(M)$ and that $g$ is in $L^2_{c,0}(M)$. Denote by $T^*$ the transpose operator of $T$ (as an operator on $L^2(M)$). Then
\[ (4.2) \quad \int_M g \, T^* f \, d\mu = \int_M Tg \, f \, d\mu. \]
Since $g$ is in $H^{1,2}_{\text{fin}}(M)$ and the operators $T$ and $\widetilde{T}$ agree on $H^{1,2}_{\text{fin}}(M)$, we see that

$$
\int_M T g f \, d\mu = \int_M \widetilde{T} g f \, d\mu = \left\langle g, (\widetilde{T})^* f \right\rangle,
$$

where $(\widetilde{T})^*$ denotes the transpose of the operator $\widetilde{T}$ from $H^1(M)$ to $L^1(M)$. Note that $(\widetilde{T})^* f$ is in $\text{BMO}(M)$ and $g$ is a multiple of an atom. Thus the above scalar product $\langle g, (\widetilde{T})^* f \rangle$ (with respect to the duality between $H^1(M)$ and $\text{BMO}(M)$) may be written as

$$
\int_M g \, [(T^* f - (\widetilde{T})^* f)] \, d\mu = 0 \quad \forall g \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(M),
$$

i.e., for all $g$ in $X^2$. Therefore $T^* f - (\widetilde{T})^* f = 0$ in the dual space of $X^2$, i.e., in $L^2_{\text{loc}}(M)/\mathbb{C}$. This implies that $T^* f - (\widetilde{T})^* f$ is constant.

Now, suppose that $g$ is in $H^1(M) \cap L^2(M)$ and that $f$ is in $L^2(M) \cap L^\infty(M)$. Then

$$
\int_M T g f \, d\mu = \int_M g \, T^* f \, d\mu = \int_M g \, (\widetilde{T})^* f \, d\mu = \int_M T g f \, d\mu.
$$

Since $f$ is an arbitrary function in $L^2(M) \cap L^\infty(M)$, $T g - \widetilde{T} g = 0$ almost everywhere, as required. $\square$

**References**


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Dipartimento di Matematica e Applicazioni, Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca, Via Cozzi, 53, 20125 Milano, Italy
E-mail address: stefano.meda@unimib.it

Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Gothenburg, SE-412 96 Göteborg, Sweden; and Department of Mathematical Sciences, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-412 96 Göteborg, Sweden
E-mail address: peters@math.chalmers.se

Laboratoire MAPMO UMR 6628, Fédération Denis Poisson, Université d’Orléans, UFR Sciences, Bâtiment de mathématiques – Route de Chartres, B.P. 6759 – 45067 Orléans cedex 2, France
E-mail address: maria.vallarino@unimib.it