

ESTIMATES FOR THE WAVE OPERATOR ON THE TORUS Π^n

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(Communicated by Christopher D. Sogge)

ABSTRACT. We prove $L^{p'} \rightarrow L^p$ bounds for the wave operator on the torus for large time. The new feature is the distribution of the singularities of the wave kernel, which can be understood by making use of Hardy-Littlewood method for exponential sums.

1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the standard homogeneous wave equation on the torus Π^n :

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} \square \Phi(T, x) &= 0, & x \in \Pi^n, \\ \Phi(0, x) &= 0, & \partial_T \Phi(0, x) = f(x), \end{aligned}$$

and prove analogues of the inequalities obtained by Strichartz [4], for large values of the time T .

Namely it is proved that

Theorem 1. *Let $n \geq 5$, $2 \leq p < \infty$, $f \in L^p(\Pi^n)$ such that $\hat{f}(0) = 0$.*

*If we introduce the operators $\Lambda = (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, $\Phi(T, \cdot) = W_T f = K_T * f$, then we have*

$$(2) \quad \|\Lambda^{1+(n+1)(\frac{1}{p}-\frac{1}{2})} W_T f\|_{L^p(\Pi^n)} \leq c_n T^{(n-3)(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{p})} (\log T)^{\delta_p} \|f\|_{L^{p'}(\Pi^n)}.$$

We remark that $\Phi(T, x) \equiv T$ if $f \equiv 1$; hence there is no loss of generality by assuming $\hat{f}(0) = 0$. In the proof we use a variant of the Littlewood-Paley decomposition for the torus which we describe below.

Let R_L , $L = 2^l$, $l \in \mathbb{Z}$, be the usual multipliers used for R^n , i.e.: $\eta \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, $\text{supp } \eta \subset (1/2, 2)$, and

$$\widehat{R_L f}(\xi) = \hat{f}(\xi) \eta(|\xi|/L), \quad \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}} \eta(|\xi|/L) = 1.$$

The same decomposition can be used for $f \in C(\Pi^n)$, and if $\hat{f}(0) = 0$ then obviously

$$f = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} R_L f.$$

Received by the editors September 28, 1995.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 35L15; Secondary 11L07.

For the square function $Sf(x)^2 = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} |R_L f(x)|^2$ one has the analogues estimate for $1 \leq p < \infty$:

$$(3) \quad c_p \|f\|_p \leq \|Sf\|_p \leq C_p \|f\|_p .$$

The proof of inequality (3) is just an imitation of that for the continuous case, if one observes that $\|R_L\|_{L^p(\Pi^n) \rightarrow L^p(\Pi^n)} \leq \|R_L\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}$. This last inequality remains true for more general multipliers, as is shown by Stein [2, ch. 7]. Hence by using standard arguments (2) follows from the uniform estimates

$$(4) \quad \|\Lambda^{1+(n+1)(\frac{1}{p}-\frac{1}{2})} R_L W_T f\|_p \leq T^{\frac{n-3}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{p})} (\log T)^{\delta_p} \|f\|_{p'} ,$$

where the constant $c_{n,p}$ is independent of L . Indeed, consider the identity operator between the mixed norm spaces :

$$(i) \quad I : L^p(l^2) \rightarrow l^2(L^p) ,$$

which is bounded for $p \geq 2$ by Minkowski's inequality; hence on taking the dual it follows that

$$(ii) \quad I : l^2(L^{p'}) \rightarrow L^{p'}(l^2)$$

is also bounded. We remark that the L^p norm of the square function Sf is the $L^p(l^2)$ mixed norm of the sequence $\{R_L f; l = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$; hence we have

$$(I) \quad \|f\|_p^2 \leq c_p \|Sf\|_p^2 \leq c_p \sum_L \|R_L\|_p^2 \quad \text{for } p \geq 2 ,$$

$$(II) \quad \|f\|_{p'}^2 \geq c_{p'} \|Sf\|_{p'}^2 \geq c_{p'} \sum_L \|R_L f\|_{p'}^2 .$$

Suppose M is a multiplier on Π^n for which the estimate $\|R_L M\|_{p' \rightarrow p} \leq C_M$ holds uniformly in L . Then using almost orthogonality we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|Mf\|_p^2 &\leq c_p \sum_L \|R_L M f\|_p^2 \\ &\leq 3c_p \sum_L (\|R_L M R_{L/2} f\|_p^2 + \|R_L M R_L f\|_p^2 + \|R_L M R_{2L} f\|_p^2) \\ &\leq 9c_p C_M^2 \sum_L \|R_L f\|_{p'}^2 \leq 9c_p c_{p'} C_M^2 \|f\|_{p'}^2 . \end{aligned}$$

Observe that inequality (4) is trivial when $p = 2$, and the crucial point is the following:

Lemma 1. *Let $n \geq 5$, $L = 2^l$, $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. We have*

$$(5) \quad \|K_{T,L}\|_{L^\infty(\Pi^n)} \leq c_{n,\gamma} T^{\frac{n-3}{2}} \log T ,$$

where the constant $c_{n,\gamma}$ is independent of L .

Here for simplicity we denoted by $K_{T,L}$ the kernel of the operator

$$\Lambda^{-(n-1)/2+i\gamma} R_L W_T ,$$

and we remark that the imaginary part of phase γ plays no role in any of our computations; it is needed in order to use analytic interpolation.

The proof of Lemma 1 is based on two different approaches. On the one hand we use the properties of the wave kernel for \mathbb{R}^n and periodization, and on the other hand estimates are obtained by making use of the Fourier transform and methods for

exponential sums. In both cases the Hardy-Littlewood “circle” method, described in [1], will play an essential role.

2. ESTIMATES IN SPACE

We start by showing a localization property of the kernel of the standard wave operator in R^n ; $K_{T,L}^c$ is defined by

$$(6) \quad \hat{K}_{T,L}^c(\xi) = \hat{K}_{T,L}(\xi) = |\xi|^{-\frac{n-1}{2}+i\gamma} \eta(\xi/L) \frac{e^{iT|\xi|}}{|\xi|},$$

where as usual we replaced the term $|\xi|^{-1} \sin(T|\xi|)$ by $|\xi|^{-1} e^{\pm iT|\xi|}$ in the Fourier transform of the wave kernel $K_T^c(x)$.

Proposition 1. *Let $TL \geq 1$. Then for every $N > 0$*

$$(7) \quad |K_{T,L}^c(x)| \leq c_{n,N,\gamma} T^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} (1 + ||x| - T| \cdot L)^{-N}.$$

Proof. First we deal with the case $|x| > T/2$. Integrating in polar coordinates, one has

$$K_{T,L}^c(x) = c_n \int e^{irT} \hat{\sigma}_1(r|x|) \eta(r/L) r^{\frac{n-3}{2}+i\gamma} dr,$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_1(\lambda)$ is the Fourier transform of the measure concentrated on the unit sphere. Using the method of stationary phase, one has

$$(8) \quad \hat{\sigma}_1(\lambda) = \lambda^{-\frac{(n-1)}{2}} e^{-i\lambda} R_-(\lambda) + \lambda^{-\frac{(n-1)}{2}} e^{i\lambda} R_+(\lambda),$$

where $|D_\lambda^N R_\pm(\lambda)| \leq c_N \lambda^{-N} \quad \forall N \in \mathbf{N}$ if $\lambda \geq 1/2$.

Let us consider one of the terms of formula (8). After a change of variables we have

$$K_{T,L,-}^c(x) = |x|^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} \int e^{irL(T-|x|)} \eta(r) R_-(rL|x|) r^{-1+i\gamma} dr.$$

Since $\text{supp } \eta \subset (1/2, 2)$, using the decay property of the derivatives of $R_-(\lambda)$ it is easy to see that

$$(d/dr)^N (\eta(r) R_-(rL|x|) r^{-1+i\gamma}) \leq C_{n,N,\gamma}$$

and the proposition follows after integrating by parts N times. The other term can be handled the same way.

When $|x| \leq T/2$, on introducing $\xi = r\xi_1$, $|\xi_1| = 1$ and integrating in polar coordinates we have

$$K_{T,L}^c(x) = \int_{S^{n-1}} I(T, \xi_1) d\sigma(\xi_1),$$

where

$$I(T, \xi_1) = L^{\frac{n-1}{4}} \int e^{irL(T+x\xi_1)} \eta(r) r^{\frac{n-3}{2}+i\gamma} dr.$$

After integrating by parts $2N$ times we obtain the estimate

$$|I(T, \xi_1)| \leq C_N L^{\frac{n-1}{4}} |L(T+x\xi_1)|^{-2N} \leq c_{N,\gamma} (LT)^{-N}$$

using the fact that $|T+x\xi_1| \geq T/2$. This implies the same estimate for $K_{T,L}^c(x)$, and the proposition follows. \square

Using the fact that

$$K_{T,L}(x) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^n} K_{T,L}^c(x - m)$$

and the localization shown above, we need upper bounds for the number of lattice points in a thin spherical shell centered at an arbitrary point. Since we have not seen these in the literature we present a proof by using a variant of the circle method, but will be brief and refer to the analysis in [1].

Proposition 2. *Let $\chi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be arbitrary but fixed. Then for $n \geq 5, T \geq 1, L \geq 1$ we have*

$$S_{T,L}(\chi) = |\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n; |x - \chi| - T| \leq L^{-1}\}| \leq c_n T^{n-1} \max(T^{-1}, L^{-1}),$$

where the constant c_n is independent of the point χ .

Proof. It is enough to prove the inequality for $T = L$, and then it is easy to see that

$$S_{T,L}(\chi) \leq c |\{x; ||x - \chi|^2 - T^2| \leq 3\}| \leq c_n \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \phi(|x - \chi|^2 - T^2) e^{-2\pi\epsilon|x - \chi|^2},$$

where ϕ is a strictly positive smooth function such that $\text{supp } \hat{\phi} \subset (-1, 1)$, $\hat{\phi} \leq 1$ and $\epsilon = T^{-2}$. Hence, using the Fourier transform, one has

$$S_{T,L}(\chi) \leq c_n \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} \theta(t, \chi) e^{-2\pi iT^2 t} \hat{\phi}(t) dt \right| \leq 2c_n \int_0^1 |\theta(t, \chi)| dt.$$

Here $\theta(t, \chi) = \sum_x e^{2\pi i |x - \chi|^2 (t + i\epsilon)}$ and we used the fact that $|\theta(t, \chi)| = |\theta(-t, \chi)|$. It is enough to estimate the theta type function in one dimension, which can be done by Poisson summation as follows:

Let $t = p/q + \tau$, $x = rq + s$, $0 \leq s < q$ and $s_{\tau, \chi}(x) = e^{2\pi i (x - \chi)^2 (\tau + i\epsilon)}$. Then one has

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(t, \chi) &= e^{2\pi i \chi^2 p/q} \sum_{s=0}^{q-1} e^{2\pi i s^2 p/q} \sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-2\pi i \chi (rq + s)} s_{\tau, \chi}(rq + s) \\ &= e^{2\pi i \chi^2 p/q} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{q} \sum_{s=0}^{q-1} e^{2\pi i (s^2 p/q - sl/q)} \right) \tilde{s}_{\tau, \chi}(l/q + 2\chi), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{s}_{\tau, \chi}(\xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} s_{\tau, \chi}(x) e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx = e^{2\pi i \chi \xi (\tau + i\epsilon)^{-1/2}} e^{-\pi/2 \frac{|\xi|^2}{\epsilon - i\tau}}$$

is the continuous Fourier transform.

On a major arc centered at p/q , one has $q \leq T$, $\tau \leq T^{-1}q^{-1}$, cf. [1]; hence it is easy to show that

$$\frac{\epsilon}{q^2(\epsilon^2 + \tau^2)} \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

This yields the one dimensional estimate

$$\theta(t, \chi) \leq cq^{-1/2} (\epsilon + |\tau|)^{-1/2} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-\pi/4(l + 2q\chi)^2} \leq cq^{-1/2} |\tau + i\epsilon|^{-1/2},$$

using the properties of Gaussian sums.

Taking the n -th power of this inequality and integrating over the major arcs yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 |\theta(t, \chi)| dt &\leq \sum_{p,q} q^{-n/2} \int_0^\infty |\tau + i\epsilon|^{-n/2} d\tau \\ &\leq c_n \epsilon^{-n/2+1} \sum_{q=1}^\infty q^{-n/2} \leq c_n T^{n/2-1} \end{aligned}$$

because $-n/2 + 1 < -1$ for $n \geq 5$, and Proposition 2 follows. □

This implies the following.

Lemma 2. *Suppose $T, L \geq 1$. Then we have*

$$(9) \quad |K_{T,L}(x)| \leq c_n T^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \max(T^{-1}, L^{-1}).$$

Proof. Let us introduce the notations $Z_0 = \{|x \in Z^n; ||x - \chi| - T| \leq L^{-1}\}$ and $Z_j = \{|x \in Z^n; 2^{j-1}L^{-1} \leq ||x - \chi| - T| < 2^jL^{-1}\}$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots$. From Proposition 1 it follows that

$$|K_{T,L}^c(\chi)| \leq c_{n,N} T^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} 2^{-Nj} \quad \text{if } x \in Z_j,$$

and then Proposition 2 implies

$$\begin{aligned} |K_{T,L}(\chi)| &\leq c_{n,N} T^{\frac{n-1}{2}} (\max(T^{-1}, L^{-1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\log_+ L/T} (T + 2^j L^{-1})^{n-2} 2^{-Nj} \\ &\quad + c_{n,N} T^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} \sum_{j > \log_+(L/T)} (T + 2^j L^{-1}) 2^j L^{-1} 2^{-Nj}) \\ &= c_{n,N} T^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} (T^{n-1} \max(T^{-1}, L^{-1}) + S_1 + S_2) \end{aligned}$$

where $\log_+(s) = \max(\log(s), 0)$ and $S_1 = 0$ if $L \leq T$.

It is easy to see that $S_2 \leq c_n T^{n-1} L^{-1}$ and $S_1 \leq c_n T^{n-2}$ for $L \geq T$. Lemma 2 follows. □

3. DIRECT ESTIMATES IN Z^n

One can explicitly write down the kernel $K_{T,L}$ as a finite sum as follows:

$$(10) \quad K_{T,L}(\chi) = \sum_{\xi \in Z^n} e^{2\pi i \chi \xi} \eta(\xi/L) |\xi|^{-\frac{n+1}{2} + i\gamma} e^{iT|\xi|},$$

which leads the trivial upper bound $|K_{T,L}(\chi)| \leq c_n L^{\frac{n-1}{2}}$. This estimate together with Lemma 2 already gives a uniform upper bound in χ and L showing the possibility of the Strichartz type estimates for the torus. Now we show how to obtain essentially sharp uniform estimates using theta type functions and partial summation.

Lemma 3. *Let $n \geq 5$. For $T < L/2$ we have*

$$(11) \quad |K_{T,L}(\chi)| \leq c_n L^{\frac{n-1}{2}} T^{-1} \log L.$$

For $L/2 \leq T \leq L^2$ we have

$$(12) \quad |K_{T,L}(\chi)| \leq c_n L^{\frac{n-1}{2}-2} T \log L.$$

Proof. Let $N_2 = \{l^{1/2}; l \in N, L/2 \leq l < 2L\}$. Then one can write

$$K_{T,L}(\chi) = \sum_{l \in N_2} \left(\sum_{|\xi|=l} e^{2\pi i \chi \xi} \right) \eta(l/L) l^{-\frac{n+1}{2} + i\gamma} e^{iTl}.$$

The inner sum is just the Fourier coefficient of the theta function $\theta(\chi, t + i\epsilon) = \sum_{\xi} e^{i(\chi\xi + |\xi|^2(t+i\epsilon))}$. Hence one has

$$(13) \quad K_{T,L}(\chi) = \int_0^{2\pi} \theta(\chi, t + i\epsilon) \left(\sum_{l \in N_2} e^{i(Tl - tl^2)} a(L, l) \right) dt,$$

where $a(L, l) = \eta(l/L) l^{-\frac{n+1}{2} + i\gamma} e^{\epsilon l^2}$, where we have chosen $\epsilon = L^{-2}$.

We will estimate the inner sum uniformly in t by using partial summation. Since N_2 consists of the square roots of the integers, the difference between two consecutive elements $l < l'$ is bounded by cL^{-1} ; hence it is easy to see that

$$|a(L, l)| \leq c_n L^{-\frac{n+1}{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad |a(L, l') - a(L, l)| \leq c_n L^{-\frac{n+1}{2} - 2}.$$

Introducing the notation

$$S_l = \sum_{l_1 \in N_2, l_1 \leq l} e^{i(Tl_1 - tl_1^2)},$$

we get, by partial summation,

$$(14) \quad \left| \sum_{l \in N_2} e^{i(Tl - tl^2)} a(L, l) \right| \leq c_n L^{-\frac{n+1}{2} - 2} \sum_{l \in N_2} |S_l|.$$

We now decompose these partial sums S_l into shorter sums, whose terms are between two consecutive integers. Let us introduce the notations

$$S_K^* = \sum_{K \leq l < K+1} e^{i(Tl - tl^2)} \quad \text{and} \quad S_{K,\mu}^* = \sum_{l=K}^{\mu} e^{i(Tl - tl^2)},$$

where K is integer $l, \mu \in N_2$, $L/2 \leq K < L$ and $K \leq \mu < K + 1$. It is not hard to show that

$$(15) \quad \sum_{l \in N_2} |S_l| \leq |N_2| \sum_K |S_K^*| + \sum_l |S_{[l],l}^*| \leq 4L^2 \sum_K |S_K^*| + 16L^3,$$

where we used the facts that $|N_2| \leq 4L^2$ and $|S_{[l],l}^*| \leq 2K \leq 4L$.

Let us remark that at this point the proof of the lemma is reduced to obtaining nontrivial estimates for the sum $\sum_K |S_K^*|$. In order to do this we make use of the Taylor formula to approximate the terms by simpler ones as follows. We can write

$$S_K^* = \sum_{j=0}^{2K} e^{i(T\sqrt{K^2+j} - t(K^2+j))} = e^{i(TK - tK^2)} \sum_{j=0}^{2K} e^{i(TK(\sqrt{1+jK^{-2}} - 1) - tj)}.$$

Using linear approximations for the exponents in the sum, we have

$$\sqrt{1 + jK^{-2}} - 1 = 1/2 jK^{-2} + r(jK^{-2}),$$

where

$$|r((j+1)K^{-2}) - r(jK^{-2})| \leq cK^{-2} jK^{-2} \leq cL^{-3}.$$

Partial summation yields

$$(16) \quad |S_K^*| = \left| \sum_{j=0}^{2K} e^{ij(T/2K-t)} e^{iTKr(jK^{-2})} \right| \leq c \left(\max_{0 \leq \mu < 2K} |T_\mu| \right) TL^{-1} + T_{2K},$$

where $T_\mu = \sum_{j=0}^\mu e^{ij(T/2K-t)}$ is the sum of a finite geometric progression. One can use the simple uniform upper bound

$$(17) \quad \max_{0 \leq \mu \leq 2K} |T_\mu| \leq c \min(L, \{T/2K - t\}^{-1}),$$

where $\{\alpha\} = \min\{|\alpha - n|; n \text{ is an integer}\}$ denotes the fractional part of the number α . The crucial point is that the average over K of the right side of inequality (17) is essentially smaller than L .

First we deal with the case when $T < L/2$. Let us consider the set $Z_T = \{T/2K; L/2 \leq K < 2L\}$. We remark that $Z_T \subset (0, 1)$ and that the distance between two neighbouring points is at least TL^{-2} . It is not hard to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x \in Z_T} \min(L, \{x - t\}^{-1}) &\leq \sum_{x \in Z_T} \min(L, |x - t|^{-1} + (1 - |x - t|)^{-1}) \\ &\leq c(L + \sum_{j=1}^{2K} L^2 T^{-1} j^{-1}) \leq cT^{-1} L^2 \log L. \end{aligned}$$

The case when $L/2 \leq T < L^2$ is slightly more complicated, however we can apply the previous argument for the sets $Z_{T,n} = Z_T \cap [n, n + 1]$, where $n \leq T/L$ is an integer. Hence in this case we have

$$(18) \quad \sum_{x \in Z_T} \min(L, \{x - t\}^{-1}) \leq cT/L (L + T^{-1} L^2 \log L) \leq cT \log L.$$

If we put together inequalities (14)–(18) we obtain the crucial estimates

$$(19) \quad \left| \sum_{l \in N_2} e^{i(Tl-tl^2)} a(L, l) \right| \leq cL^{-\frac{n+1}{2}+2} T^{-1} \log L \quad \text{for } T < L/2$$

and

$$(20) \quad \left| \sum_{l \in N_2} e^{i(Tl-tl^2)} a(L, l) \right| \leq cL^{-\frac{n+1}{2}} T \log L \quad \text{for } L/2 \leq T \leq L^2.$$

Lemma 3 follows if one remarks that the “circle” method implies the estimate for $n \geq 5$, $\epsilon = L^{-2}$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\theta(\chi, t + i\epsilon)| dt \leq c_n L^{n-2}. \quad \square$$

Optimizing between estimates (9) and (12) implies (5) for $L \geq T^{1/2}$, and for $L \leq T^{1/2}$ we have the trivial estimate $|K_{T,L}(\chi)| \leq c_n L^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \leq c_n T^{\frac{n-3}{2}}$ when $n \geq 5$. Hence Lemma 1 follows. \square

Finally using the (energy) estimate

$$(21) \quad \|\Lambda^{1+i\gamma} R_L K_T f\|_{L^2} \leq \|f\|_{L^2},$$

which is obvious since the Fourier transform of the left side is $|\xi|^{i\gamma}\eta(\xi/L)e^{iT|\xi|}\hat{f}(\xi)$, estimate (4) follows immediately by interpolating between (9) and (21), which implies Theorem 1 using the Littlewood-Paley theory as we already explained in the introduction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to Elias M. Stein for suggesting the problem and for many helpful discussions during this research.

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