

WEIGHTED INEQUALITIES FOR CONVOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT. For certain convolution operators T on R^+ or R^n , sufficient conditions are given which ensure that T is bounded between weighted Lebesgue spaces. The class of operators considered includes many of classical interest; in particular, new inequalities are obtained for the Laplace transform, the Poisson integral on $R^n \times R^+$, and Goldberg's transform.

1. INTRODUCTION

In a recent paper Bloom [2] obtained weighted inequalities for the Laplace transform \mathcal{L} using known weighted inequalities for the Hardy operator. The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, we show that these weighted Hardy inequalities may be used in a different and, we think, more elementary way to obtain weighted inequalities for a class of operators on $R^+ = (0, \infty)$. Our results will be seen to include and sharpen Bloom's results for \mathcal{L} . Secondly, we show that our approach admits a natural extension to a class of operators on R^n ; applications will be illustrated by deriving new inequalities for Goldberg's transform on R and the Poisson integral on the half space $R^{n+} = R^n \times R^+$.

If X denotes R^+ or R^n and μ is a positive Borel measure on X , denote by $L^p(X, \mu)$ the weighted Lebesgue space of measurable functions f on X for which $\|f\|_{p, \mu} < \infty$ where

$$\|f\|_{p, \mu} = \begin{cases} (\int_X |f|^p d\mu)^{1/p} & \text{if } 1 \leq p < \infty, \\ \mu \text{ ess. sup}_{y \in X} |f(y)| & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases}$$

If $f(y)$ is expressed as a formula in y it will sometimes be convenient to slightly abuse the notation $\|f\|_{p, \mu}$ by writing instead $\|f(y)\|_{p, \mu}$.

The operators considered here are convolutions with a suitable kernel k and are given by

$$(1.1) \quad Tf(x) = \begin{cases} \int_{R^+} k(x/y)f(y) dy/y & \text{if } X = R^+, \\ \int_{R^n} k(|x-y|)f(y) dy & \text{if } X = R^n. \end{cases}$$

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Given such T and exponents $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$, sufficient conditions to be satisfied by positive Borel measures μ and ν are given which ensure that

$$(1.2) \quad \|Tf\|_{q, \mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

for a constant C independent of $f \in L^p(X, \nu)$. Since $\nu = \nu_a + \nu_s$ where ν_a is absolutely continuous and ν_s is singular with respect to Lebesgue measure on X , there is no loss of generality in taking $\nu = \nu_a$ since the left side of (1.2) is unchanged if f is redefined to be zero on the support of ν_s . For convenience we set $v = d\nu_a/dx$ and $d\sigma/dx = v^{-1/(p-1)}$. As usual p' denotes the conjugate exponent of p given by $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ and if $q < p$ the exponent r is defined by $1/r = 1/q - 1/p$. We define a function $\omega(t) = \omega(X; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$ for $t > 0$ as follows, χ_E denoting the characteristic function of E .

If $X = R^+$,

$$\omega(t) = \begin{cases} \sup_{s>0} \|\chi_{(0, st]}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left(\int_0^\infty [\|\chi_{(0, st]}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma}]^r s^{-p'} d\sigma(s) \right)^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p. \end{cases}$$

If $X = R^n$, Q denotes a cube in R^n with centre x_Q and sides parallel to the coordinate axis of length $\ell(Q)$. If $j = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$ for integers j_1, \dots, j_n , let Q_j denote the translate of Q by $\ell(Q)j$ so that $x_{Q_j} = x_Q + \ell(Q)j$ and $\ell(Q_j) = \ell(Q)$. Let Q^* denote the dilate of Q by the factor 3 so that $x_{Q^*} = x_Q$ and $\ell(Q^*) = 3\ell(Q)$. Set $Q_j^* = (Q_j)^*$. Then

$$\omega(t) = \inf_{\{Q: \ell(Q)=t\}} \omega_Q$$

where

$$\omega_Q = \begin{cases} \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left(\sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p. \end{cases}$$

Throughout, we adopt the usual convention that products of the form $0 \cdot \infty$ are taken to be zero and when $p = 1$ or $p = \infty$, expressions involving σ are interpreted as appropriate limits; for example, $\|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma}$ is taken to be $\text{ess. sup}_{y \in [s, \infty)} [y v(y)]^{-1}$ when $p = 1$. Note that $w(t)$ is nonnegative, nondecreasing on R^+ and is continuous wherever it is finite. In particular, $\omega(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \omega(t)$ exists as an extended real number.

If $k(t)$ is a nonnegative, nonincreasing, right continuous function on R^+ , set $k(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} k(t)$ and denote by Λ_k the positive Borel measure on R^+ generated by k defined by $\Lambda_k(a, b) = k(a) - k(b)$; see [10, Chapter 11].

If $k(t) = \chi_{(0, 1)}(t)$ the operator given by (1.1) with $X = R^+$ is the 'dual' Hardy operator $A_1 f(x) = \int_x^\infty f(y) dy/y$ for which $\omega(1) < \infty$ is a known (see [8], [1], [3], [7]) necessary and sufficient condition for (1.2) to hold. Moreover, in this case the smallest constant C in (1.2) satisfies $c_{1, p, q} \omega(1) \leq C \leq c_{2, p, q} \omega(1)$ for constants $c_{1, p, q}$ and $c_{2, p, q}$. Our main result generalizes this as follows.

Theorem 1. *Let $k(t)$ be nonnegative, nonincreasing, and right continuous on R^+ . Suppose $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ and that μ, ν are positive Borel measures on X*

with $\omega(t) = \omega(X; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$ satisfying

$$(1.3) \quad K = \int_{R^+} \omega(t) d\Lambda_k(t) + k(\infty)\omega(\infty) < \infty.$$

Then there is a constant $c_{X,p,q}$ such that (1.2) holds with $C = c_{X,p,q}K$ for all $f \in L^p(X, \nu)$.

It should be noted that the integral in (1.3) is equivalent to the improper Riemann-Stieltjes integral $\int_0^\infty \omega(t) d[-k(t)]$ whenever k and ω have no common point of discontinuity; in particular, this is the case if k is continuous or if $\omega(t) < \infty$ for all t .

With $X = R^+$ and each of μ and ν of the form $d\mu/dx = x^\alpha$, inequalities of the form (1.2) for various choices of k have been given in Chapter 9 of [4], see especially Theorems 319, 341(2), 342(2), and 360. Although Theorem 1 generalizes many of these results, here we elaborate only the case $k(t) = e^{-t}$ which leads by a change of variable to new inequalities for the Laplace transform \mathcal{L} since in that case $\mathcal{L}f(x) = Tg(x)$ where $g(y) = y^{-1}f(y^{-1})$.

Corollary 1. *If $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$, and μ, ν are positive Borel measures on R^+ with $K < \infty$ where*

$$(1.4) \quad K = \begin{cases} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} \sup_{s>0} \|\chi_{(0,t/s]\|_{q,\mu} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma} dt & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \int_0^\infty e^{-t} (\int_0^\infty [\|\chi_{(0,t/s]\|_{q,\mu} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma}^{p'/q'}]^r d\sigma(s))^{1/r} dt & \text{if } q < p \end{cases}$$

then there is a constant $c_{p,q}$ such that

$$(1.5) \quad \|\mathcal{L}f\|_{q,\mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p,\nu}$$

with $C = c_{p,q}K$ for all $f \in L^p(R^+, \nu)$.

Bloom [2] proved two theorems, each giving a sufficient condition and a different necessary condition for (1.5) to hold with $d\mu = udx, d\nu = vdx$, and $1 < p, q < \infty$. In particular, his second theorem asserts that if B_δ is defined by

$$B_\delta = \begin{cases} \sup_{s>0} (\mathcal{L}u(\delta s))^{1/q} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ (\int_0^\infty [(\mathcal{L}u(\delta s))^{1/q} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma}^{p'/q'}]^r d\sigma(s))^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p, \end{cases}$$

then $B_1 < \infty$ is sufficient while $B_q < \infty$ is necessary for (1.5) to hold. Since

$$\int_0^{t/s} u \leq e^{\delta t} \int_0^{t/s} e^{-\delta s x} u(x) dx \leq e^{\delta t} \mathcal{L}u(\delta s),$$

it follows immediately that $K < \infty$ in (1.4) if $B_\delta < \infty$ for some $\delta < q$. Thus Corollary 1 contains the sufficient condition and narrows the gap between the necessary and the sufficient conditions of Bloom's Theorem 2. Similarly, it is not difficult to show that Corollary 1 also contains the sufficient condition of his Theorem 1.

Among other applications, Theorem 1 may be used to obtain inequalities for the operators given by the Gauss-Weierstrass kernel $W_y(x) = (4\pi y)^{-n/2} e^{-|x|^2/4y}$ and the Poisson kernel $P_y(x) = \Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2})y[\pi(y^2 + |x|^2)]^{-(n+1)/2}$ where $(x, y) \in R^{n+1}$, for which inequalities of the form (1.2) have been widely studied. In particular, we have the following result for the Poisson operator.

Corollary 2. *If $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$, $y > 0$, and μ, ν are positive Borel measures on R^n with $\omega(t) = \omega(R^n; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$ satisfying*

$$(1.6) \quad \int_1^\infty \frac{\omega(t)}{t^{n+2}} dt < \infty,$$

then

$$(1.7) \quad \left\| \int_{R^n} P_y(x-z)f(z) dz \right\|_{q, \mu} \leq C_y \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with

$$(1.8) \quad C_y = \frac{3^{n/p}(n+1)\Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2})}{\pi^{(n+1)/2}} y \int_0^\infty \frac{t\omega(t)}{(y^2+t^2)^{(n+3)/2}} dt.$$

A simple calculation shows that for $1 < p = q < \infty$ and $d\mu/dx = d\nu/dx = (1+|x|)^\alpha$,

$$\omega(t) \leq c_{n,p,\alpha} \begin{cases} t^n(1+t)^{\max(0, -n/p'+\alpha/p)}, & \alpha \geq 0, \\ t^n(1+t)^{\max(0, -n/p-\alpha/p)}, & \alpha < 0, \end{cases}$$

and hence (1.7) holds in this case if $-n-p < \alpha < n(p-1)+p$. Moreover, this range of α is best possible for (1.7); the necessity of $-n-p < \alpha$ follows by taking $f(z) = |z|/\log|z|$ for large $|z|$ and $f(z) = 0$ otherwise. A duality argument shows the necessity of $\alpha < n(p-1)+p$.

Note that if $1 \leq p \leq q \leq \infty$ and there is a constant K with

$$(1.9) \quad \|\chi_Q\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_Q\|_{p', \sigma} \leq K[\ell(Q)]^n$$

for all cubes Q , then $\omega(t) \leq K(3t)^n$ so Corollary 2 shows that (1.7) holds with constant C independent of y ; the case $n = 1 \leq p = q < \infty$ was obtained by Muckenhoupt [9, Theorem 2].

The condition (1.9) with $n = 1 < p = q < \infty$ and $d\mu/dx = d\nu/dx = v$ is the well-known A_p condition which characterizes [6] the weight functions v for which the Hilbert transform

$$Hf(x) = \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{f(t)}{x-t} dt, \quad x \in R,$$

satisfies

$$(1.10) \quad \int_R |Hf|^p v \leq C \int_R |f|^p v$$

for a constant C independent of f . Combining this with Corollary 2 we prove, in section 3, the following weighted inequalities for the Goldberg transform [5] given by

$$Gf(x) = \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{\sin(x-t)}{(x-t)^2} f(t) dt, \quad x \in R.$$

Theorem 2. *If $1 < p < \infty$ and $v = dv/dx$ is a weight function on R with $\omega(t) = \omega(R; \nu, \nu; p, p; t)$ satisfying*

$$(1.11) \quad \frac{\omega(t)}{t} + \int_1^\infty \frac{\omega(s)}{s^3} ds \leq K$$

for some constant K and all $0 < t < 1$, then there is a constant C depending on p and K such that

$$(1.12) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} |Gf|^p v \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f|^p v.$$

for all $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}, \nu)$.

Theorem 1 is proved in section 2. Constants are denoted by c or C , with or without subscripts, but are not necessarily the same from line to line.

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

We prove the case $X = \mathbb{R}^+$ first.

For $t > 0$ let the Hardy operators A_t be given by

$$A_t f(x) = \int_{x/t}^{\infty} f(y) \frac{dy}{y}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^+.$$

As noted in the introduction, A_1 satisfies

$$\|A_1 f\|_{q, \mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with $C = c_{2,p,q} \omega(\mathbb{R}^+; \mu, \nu; q, p; 1)$ and hence a change of variable shows

$$(2.1) \quad \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} \leq c_{2,p,q} \omega(\mathbb{R}^+; \mu, \nu; q, p; t) \|f\|_{p, \nu}.$$

Suppose now that $f \geq 0$ and let T_1 be the operator associated with the kernel $k_1(t) = k(t) - k(\infty)$. Then $k_1(\infty) = 0$ and hence Fubini's Theorem shows

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 f(x) &= \int_0^{\infty} f(y) \int_{(x/y, \infty)} d\Lambda_k(t) \frac{dy}{y} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} d\Lambda_k(t) \int_{x/t}^{\infty} f(y) \frac{dy}{y} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} A_t f(x) d\Lambda_k(t). \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski's inequality for integrals now yields

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \|T_1 f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} d\Lambda_k(t) \\ &\leq c_{2,p,q} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \omega(t) d\Lambda_k(t) \right) \|f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

in view of (2.1).

On the other hand, Hölder's inequality shows

$$\begin{aligned} \|(T - T_1) f\|_{q, \mu} &= k(\infty) \|\chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}\|_{q, \mu} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} |f(y)| \frac{dy}{y} \\ &\leq k(\infty) \|\chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}(y)\|_{p', \sigma} \|f\|_{p, \nu} \\ &= k(\infty) c_{p,q} \omega(\infty) \|f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

where $c_{p,q} = 1$ if $p \leq q$ and $c_{p,q} = (r/p')^{1/r}$ otherwise. This combined with (2.2) completes the proof for the case $X = \mathbb{R}^+$.

Turning to the case $X = R^n$, we first prove that for $t > 0$ the operator

$$A_t f(x) = \int_{|x-y|<t} f(y) dy$$

satisfies

$$(2.3) \quad \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} \leq 3^{n/p} C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with $C = \omega(R^n; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$.

To prove (2.3), fix a cube Q with $\ell(Q) = t$. Then for fixed j and $x \in Q_j$, we have $\{y : |x - y| < t\} \subset Q_j^*$ and therefore

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} |A_t f(x)| &\leq \int_{Q_j^*} |f(y)| dy \\ &\leq \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

by Hölder's inequality. The case $q = \infty$ of (2.3) follows easily from (2.4) so we give the details only for $q < \infty$. Now, if $q < \infty$, then (2.4) shows

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \left(\sum_j \int_{Q_j} |A_t f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \left(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu}^q \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}^q \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \begin{cases} \left(\sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} \right) \left(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q \right)^{1/q} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left(\sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} \left(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } q < p < \infty, \\ \left(\sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} \left(\sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} \right) & \text{if } q < p = \infty \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where we used Hölder's inequality with exponents p/q , $(p/q)' = r/q$ on the sum in the cases $q < p$. We have $(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q)^{1/q} \leq (\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p)^{1/p}$ for $p \leq q$, and thus, in any case, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \omega_Q \begin{cases} \left(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } p < \infty, \\ \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} & \text{if } p = \infty \end{cases} \\ &= \omega_Q \begin{cases} \left(\int_{R^n} \sum_j \chi_{Q_j^*} |f|^p d\nu \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } p < \infty, \\ \|f\|_{p, \nu} & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sum_j \chi_{Q_j^*}(y) \leq 3^n$ a.e., we obtain (2.3) upon taking the infimum over cubes Q with $\ell(Q) = t$.

Now suppose $f \geq 0$ and let T_1 be the operator associated with the kernel $k_1(t) = k(t) - k(\infty)$. Then Fubini's Theorem yields

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 f(x) &= \int_{R^n} f(y) \int_{(|x-y|, \infty)} d\Lambda_k(t) dy \\ &= \int_{R^+} A_t f(x) d\Lambda_k(t) \end{aligned}$$

and the remainder of the proof is analogous to that of the case $X = R^+$ using (2.3) in place of (2.1); $c_{R^n, p, q} = 3^{n/p}$ will suffice. The details are omitted.

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

For each integer j , let χ_j and χ_j^* denote the characteristic functions of $I_j = (j - 1, j]$ and $I_j^* = (j - 2, j + 1]$ respectively. Then since

$$\left| \frac{\sin t}{t^2} - \frac{1}{t} \right| \leq c, \quad |t| \leq 2,$$

it follows that

$$\left| Gf(x) - \sum_j [H(f\chi_j^*)(x)]\chi_j(x) \right| \leq cT|f|(x)$$

where

$$Tf(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{f(t)}{1 + |x - t|^2} dt.$$

Now, let $v_j(x)$ have period 6 and be given by

$$v_j(x) = \begin{cases} v(x) & \text{if } x \in I_j^*, \\ v(2j + 2 - x) & \text{if } x \in I_{j+3}^*. \end{cases}$$

Since (1.11) implies $\omega(t)/t \leq 4^3K$ for $t \leq 3$, by considering separately those intervals Q with $\ell(Q) \leq 3$ and those with $\ell(Q) > 3$ it follows that there is a constant c independent of j such that (1.9) holds with $n = 1$, $p = q$, $d\mu/dx = dv/dx = v_j$, and K replaced by cK . Hence, (1.10) shows there is a constant C depending only on p and K such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_R \left| \sum_j [H(f\chi_j^*)(x)]\chi_j(x) \right|^p v(x) dx &= \sum_j \int_{I_j} |H(f\chi_j^*)(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ &\leq \sum_j \int_R |H(f\chi_j^*)(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ (3.1) \qquad \qquad \qquad &\leq C \sum_j \int_{I_j^*} |f(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ &\leq 3C \int_R |f(x)|^p v(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, Corollary 2 yields

$$(3.2) \qquad \int_R [T|f|(x)]^p v(x) dx \leq C \int_R |f(x)|^p v(x) dx$$

in view of (1.11).

Combining (3.1) and (3.2) yields (1.12) and completes the proof of Theorem 2.

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