

## BEST CONSTANTS FOR TWO NONCONVOLUTION INEQUALITIES

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**ABSTRACT.** The norm of the operator which averages  $|f|$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  over balls of radius  $\delta|x|$  centered at either 0 or  $x$  is obtained as a function of  $n$ ,  $p$  and  $\delta$ . Both inequalities proved are  $n$ -dimensional analogues of a classical inequality of Hardy in  $\mathbb{R}^1$ . Finally, a lower bound for the operator norm of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is given.

### 0. INTRODUCTION

A classical result of Hardy [HLP] states that if  $f$  is in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^1)$  for  $p > 1$ , then

$$(0.1) \quad \left( \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x |f(t)| dt \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1} \left( \int_0^\infty |f(t)|^p dt \right)^{1/p}$$

and the constant  $p/(p-1)$  is the best possible. By considering two-sided averages of  $f$  instead of one-sided, (0.1) can be equivalently formulated as:

$$(0.2) \quad \left( \int_{-\infty}^\infty \left( \frac{1}{2|x|} \int_{-|x|}^{|x|} |f(t)| dt \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1} \left( \int_{-\infty}^\infty |f(t)|^p dt \right)^{1/p}.$$

We denote by  $D(a, R)$  the ball of radius  $R$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  centered at  $a$ . Let  $(Tf)(x)$  be the average of  $|f| \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  over the ball  $D(0, |x|)$ . The analogue of (0.2) for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the inequality:

$$(0.3) \quad \|Tf\|_{L^p} \leq C_p(n) \|f\|_{L^p}$$

for some constant  $C_p(n)$  which depends a priori on  $p$  and  $n$ . Our first result is that the best constant  $C_p(n)$  which satisfies (0.3) for all  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is  $p' = p/(p-1)$ , the same constant as in dimension one. Another version of Hardy's inequality in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the best possible constant can be found in [F].

Next we consider a similar problem. An equivalent formulation of (0.1) and (0.2) is

$$(0.4) \quad \left( \int_{-\infty}^\infty \left( \frac{1}{2|x|} \int_{x-|x|}^{x+|x|} |f(t)| dt \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \frac{p}{2^{1/p}(p-1)} \left( \int_{-\infty}^\infty |f(t)|^p dt \right)^{1/p},$$

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where  $f$  is in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^1)$ . Let  $(Sf)(x)$  be the average of  $|f| \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  over the ball  $D(x, |x|)$ . We compute the operator norm  $c_{p,n}$  of  $S$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  as a function of  $n$  and  $p$ . The precise value of the constant  $c_{p,n}$  is given in Theorem 2.

In section 3 a lower bound for the operator norm of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is given. Finally, in section 4 the norm on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  of the operator which averages  $f$  over the ball of radius  $\delta|x|$  centered at either 0 or  $|x|$  is given as a function of  $\delta$ ,  $p$ , and  $n$ , for any  $\delta > 0$ .

Throughout this note,  $\omega_{n-1}$  will denote the area of the unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$  and  $v_n$  the volume of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## 1. HARDY'S INEQUALITY ON $\mathbb{R}^n$

In this section we will prove inequality (0.3) with constant  $C_p(n) = p' = p/(p-1)$ . We denote by  $|A|$  the Lebesgue measure of the set  $A$  and by  $\chi_A$  its characteristic function.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , where  $1 < p < \infty$ . The following inequality holds:*

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{1}{|D(0, |x|)|} \int_{D(0, |x|)} |f(y)| dy \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(y)|^p dy \right)^{1/p},$$

and the constant  $p' = p/(p-1)$  is the best possible.

*Proof.* Fix  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Without loss of generality, assume that  $f$  is nonnegative and continuous. Let  $\mathbb{R}^+$  denote the multiplicative group of positive real numbers with Haar measure  $\frac{dt}{t}$ . The function  $t^{n/p'} \chi_{[0,1]}$  is in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dt}{t})$  with norm  $p'/n$ . For a fixed  $\theta$  in the unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$ , the function  $t \rightarrow f(t\theta)t^{n/p}$  is in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dt}{t})$ . The group inequality  $\|g * K\|_{L^p} \leq \|g\|_{L^p} \|K\|_{L^1}$  gives:

$$(1.2) \quad \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_0^1 f(rt\theta)(rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} \leq \left( \int_{r=0}^{\infty} (f(r\theta)r^{\frac{n}{p}})^p \frac{dr}{r} \right) \left( \frac{p'}{n} \right)^p.$$

Note that equality holds in (1.2) if and only if equality holds in  $\|g * K\|_{L^p} \leq \|g\|_{L^p} \|K\|_{L^1}$ . This happens in the limit by the sequence  $g_{\epsilon, N} = \chi_{[\epsilon, N]}$ . Since  $g(t) = f(t\theta)t^{n/p}$ , we conclude that equality is attained in (1.2) in the limit by the sequence

$$(1.3) \quad f_{\epsilon, N}(t\theta) = t^{-n/p} \chi_{\epsilon \leq t \leq N} \quad \text{as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Note that  $Tf$  is a radial function. Expressing all integrals in polar coordinates, we reduce (1.1) to a convolution inequality on the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{R}^+$ . We have

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \|Tf\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p &= \omega_{n-1} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{v_n r^n} \int_{t=0}^r \int_{\theta \in S^{n-1}} f(t\theta) t^{n-1} d\theta dt \right)^p r^{n-1} dr \\ &= \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{v_n^p} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_{t=0}^1 f(rt\theta)(rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} d\theta \right)^p \frac{dr}{r}. \end{aligned}$$

We apply Hölder's inequality with exponents  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$  to the functions 1 and  $\theta \rightarrow \int_{t=0}^1 f(rt\theta)(rt)^{n/p} t^{n/p'} \frac{dt}{t}$  and then to Fubini's theorem to interchange the integrals in  $\theta$  and  $r$ . We obtain that (1.4) is bounded above by

$$(1.5) \quad \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{v_n^p} \omega_{n-1}^{\frac{p'}{p}} \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_{t=0}^1 f(rt\theta)(rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} d\theta.$$

Note that if  $f$  is a radial function, then (1.4) and (1.5) are identical. We now apply (1.2) to majorize (1.5) by

$$\frac{\omega_{n-1}^p}{v_n^p} \left( \frac{p'}{n} \right)^p \int_{S^{n-1}} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} f(r\theta)^p r^n \frac{dr}{r} d\theta = \left( \frac{p}{p-1} \right)^p \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p$$

using the fact that  $\omega_{n-1} = nv_n$ . We have now obtained the inequality  $\|Tf\|_{L^p} \leq p' \|f\|_{L^p}$ . Equality holds when the family of functions (1.3) is radial. Therefore, the extremal family for inequality (1.1) is  $|x|^{-n/p} \chi_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq N}$ , as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

## 2. A VARIANT OF HARDY'S INEQUALITY ON $\mathbb{R}^n$

The derivation of the  $n$ -dimensional analogue of (0.4) is more subtle. Let  $B(s, t)$  denote the usual beta-function  $\int_0^1 x^t (1-x)^s dx$ . Our second result is

**Theorem 2.** Let  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $c_{p,n} = p' \frac{\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_{n-1}} 2^{\frac{n}{p'}-1} B(\frac{1}{2}(\frac{n}{p'}-1), \frac{n-3}{2})$ . The following inequality holds for all  $f$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ :

$$(2.1) \quad \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{1}{|D(x, |x|)|} \int_{D(x, |x|)} |f(y)| dy \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq c_{p,n} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(y)|^p dy \right)^{1/p}$$

and the constant  $c_{p,n}$  is the best possible.

*Proof.* We use duality. Fix  $f$  and  $g$  positive and continuous with  $\|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 1$  and  $\|g\|_{L^{p'}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 1$ . We will show that  $\int g(x)(Sf)(x) dx \leq c_{p,n}$ . We express both  $g$  and  $Sf$  in polar coordinates by writing  $x = r\phi$  and  $y = t\theta$ . The relation  $|x-y| \leq |x|$  is equivalent to  $\theta \cdot \phi \geq t/2r$ . We obtain

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(x)(Sf)(x) dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{v_n |x|^n} f(y) g(x) \chi_{D(x, |x|)}(y) dx dy \\ &= \frac{1}{v_n} \iint_{(S^{n-1})^2} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{t=0}^{2r} f(t\theta) g(r\phi) \chi_{\theta \cdot \phi \geq t/2r} t^n \frac{dt}{t} \frac{dr}{r} d\phi d\theta \\ &= \frac{2^{\frac{n}{p'}}}{v_n} \iint_{(S^{n-1})^2} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} g(r\phi) r^{\frac{n}{p'}} \left( \int_{t=0}^1 f(2rt\theta) (2rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} \chi_{\theta \cdot \phi \geq t} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} \right) \frac{dr}{r} d\phi d\theta \\ &\leq \frac{2^{\frac{n}{p'}}}{v_n} \iint_{(S^{n-1})^2} G(\phi) \left[ \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_{t=0}^1 f(2rt\theta) (2rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} \chi_{\theta \cdot \phi \geq t} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} \right]^{1/p} d\phi d\theta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $G(\phi) = \left( \int_{r=0}^{\infty} g(r\phi)^{p'} r^n \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{1/p'}$ . The bracketed expression in (2.2) is the  $L^p$  norm of the group  $(\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dt}{t})$  convolution of the function  $t \rightarrow f(t\theta) t^{\frac{n}{p}}$  with the kernel  $\chi_{[0, \theta \cdot \phi]}(t) t^{\frac{n}{p'}}$  at  $2r$ . We therefore estimate (2.2) by

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{2^{\frac{n}{p'}}}{v_n} \iint_{(S^{n-1})^2} G(\phi) F(\theta) \left( \int_0^{\theta \cdot \phi} t^{\frac{n}{p'}} \frac{dt}{t} \right) d\phi d\theta,$$

where  $F(\theta) = \left( \int_0^{\infty} f(r\theta)^p r^n \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{1/p}$ . Let

$$K(\phi \cdot \theta) = \int_0^{\theta \cdot \phi} t^{n/p'} \frac{dt}{t} = \frac{p'}{n} [(\phi \cdot \theta)^+]^{n/p'},$$

where  $N^+$  denotes the positive part of the number  $N$ . Next, we need the following:

**Lemma.** *For any  $F, G \geq 0$  measurable on  $S^{n-1}$  and  $K \geq 0$  measurable on  $[-1, 1]$ ,*

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} & \iint_{(S^{n-1})^2} F(\theta) G(\phi) K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\phi d\theta \\ & \leq \|F\|_{L^p(S^{n-1})} \|G\|_{L^{p'}(S^{n-1})} \int_{S^{n-1}} K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\phi. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We may assume that all three quantities on the right-hand side of (2.4) are finite. Since  $K$  depends only on the inner product  $\theta \cdot \phi$ , the integral  $\int_{S^{n-1}} K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\phi$  is independent of  $\theta$ . Hölder's inequality applied to the functions  $F$  and 1 with respect to the measure  $K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\theta$  gives

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_{S^{n-1}} F(\theta) K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\theta \\ & \leq \left( \int_{S^{n-1}} F(\theta)^p K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\theta \right)^{1/p} \left( \int_{S^{n-1}} K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\theta \right)^{1/p'}. \end{aligned}$$

We will now use (2.5) to prove (2.4). The left-hand side of (2.4) is trivially estimated by  $(\int_{S^{n-1}} (\int_{S^{n-1}} F(\theta) K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\theta)^{1/p} \|G\|_{L^{p'}(S^{n-1})} d\phi)$ . Applying (2.5) and Fubini's theorem we bound this last expression by  $\|F\|_{L^p(S^{n-1})} \|G\|_{L^{p'}(S^{n-1})} \times \int_{S^{n-1}} K(\theta \cdot \phi) d\phi$ . The lemma is now proved. Observe that equality is attained in (2.4) if and only if both  $F$  and  $G$  are constants.

We now continue with the proof of Theorem 2. Applying the lemma and using the fact that  $F$  and  $G$  have norm one, we estimate (2.3) by  $\frac{p'}{n} \frac{2^{\frac{n}{p'p}}}{v_n} \times \int_{S^{n-1}} ((\theta \cdot \phi)^+)^{\frac{n}{p'}} d\theta$ . To compute this integral, we slice the sphere in the direction transverse to  $\phi$ . For convenience we may take  $\phi = e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . The area of the slice cut by the hyperplane  $\phi_1 = s$  is  $\omega_{n-2}(1-s^2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}$  and the weight of this slice is  $(1-s^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ . We get

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{S^{n-1}} ((\theta \cdot \phi)^+)^{\frac{n}{p'}} d\theta &= \omega_{n-2} \int_{s=0}^1 s^{\frac{n}{p'}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} ds \\ &= \omega_{n-2} \frac{1}{2} B\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{n}{p'} - 1\right), \frac{n-3}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We now use that  $nv_n = \omega_{n-1}$  to get the final estimate  $c_{p,n}$  in (2.2) which completes the proof of (2.1). It remains to establish that the constant  $c_{p,n}$  is the best possible. For any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $A(y)$  be the spherical cap  $\{\theta \in S^{n-1} : |\theta - y| \leq |y|\}$ . This cap is nonempty if and only if  $|y| \geq 1/2$ . For such  $y$ , the Lebesgue measure  $|A(y)|$  is  $\omega_{n-2} \int_{1/2|y|}^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} ds$ . Let  $G(t) = \chi_{[0,1]}(t) t^{n/p'} \int_t^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} ds$ . An easy computation shows that  $\|G\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^+, d_t)} = (\frac{p'}{n}) \int_0^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} s^{\frac{n}{p'}} ds$ . Let  $h = h_{\epsilon,N}$  be an element of the family

$|x|^{-n/p} \chi_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq N}$  normalized to have  $L^p$  norm one. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|Sh\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p &= \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{\phi \in S^{n-1}} \left( \frac{1}{v_n r^n} \int_{D(r\phi, r)} h(y) dy \right)^p r^{n-1} d\phi dr \\
 &= \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{\phi \in S^{n-1}} \left( \frac{1}{v_n r^n} \int_{t=0}^{2r} \int_{\theta \in S^{n-1}} h(t\theta) t^{n-1} d\theta dt \right)^p r^{n-1} d\phi dr \\
 &= \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{\phi \in S^{n-1}} \left( \frac{1}{v_n r^n} \int_{t=0}^{2r} |A((r/t)\phi)| h(t) t^n \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p r^n d\phi \frac{dr}{r} \\
 (2.7) \quad &= \omega_{n-2}^p \frac{2^{np-n}}{v_n^p} \omega_{n-1} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_{t=0}^1 h(2rt) (2rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} G(t) \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p r^n \frac{dr}{r}.
 \end{aligned}$$

The convolution inequality  $\|g * L\|_{L^p} \leq \|g\|_{L^p} \|L\|_{L^1}$  in the group  $(\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dt}{t})$  written as

$$(2.8) \quad \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \left( \int_{t=0}^1 h(2rt) (2rt)^{\frac{n}{p}} G(t) \frac{dt}{t} \right)^p \frac{dr}{r} \leq \left( \int_{r=0}^{\infty} h(r)^p r^n \frac{dr}{r} \right) \|G\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^+, \frac{dt}{t})}^p$$

becomes an equality as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . Inserting (2.8) in (2.7) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|Sh\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p &\leq \omega_{n-2}^p \frac{2^{np-n}}{v_n^p} \left( \frac{p'}{n} \right)^p \left( \int_{s=0}^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} s^{\frac{n}{p}} ds \right)^p \\
 &\quad \times \omega_{n-1} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} h(r)^p r^{n-1} dr = c_{p,n}^p
 \end{aligned}$$

since  $\|h\|_{L^p} = 1$ , and equality is attained as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . Theorem 2 is now proved.

### 3. A LOWER BOUND FOR THE OPERATOR NORM OF THE HARDY-LITTLEWOOD MAXIMAL FUNCTION ON $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$

Let  $M(f)(x) = \sup_{r>0} (v_n r^n)^{-1} \int_{|y-x| \leq r} |f(y)| dy$  be the usual Hardy-Littlewood maximal function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The family of functions  $f_{\epsilon, N}(x) = |x|^{-n/p} \chi_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq N}$  is extremal for Theorems 1 and 2. Let  $A_{p,n}$  be the operator norm of  $M$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . By computing  $\|M(f_{\epsilon, N})\|_{L^p} / \|f_{\epsilon, N}\|_{L^p}$  and letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain a lower bound for  $A_{p,n}$ .

**Proposition.** For  $1 < p < \infty$ , let  $A_{p,n}$  be the best constant  $C$  that satisfies the inequality  $\|Mf\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}$  for all  $f$  in  $L^p$ . Then

$$(3.1) \quad A_{p,n} \geq p' \frac{\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_{n-1}} \sup_{\delta > 1} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \int_{-1}^1 (\sqrt{1-s^2})^{n-3} (s + \sqrt{s^2 + \delta^2 - 1})^{\frac{n}{p}} ds$$

and the supremum above is attained for some  $\delta = \delta_{n,p}$  always less than 2.

*Proof.* The following is only a sketch. Since  $|x|^{-n/p}$  is in  $L_{\text{loc}}^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we can calculate  $M(|x|^{-n/p})$  instead. Observe that  $M(|x|^{-n/p}) = c |x|^{-n/p}$  where  $c = M(|x|^{-n/p})(e_1)$  and  $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Also note that the supremum of the averages of  $|x|^{-n/p}$  over balls of radius  $r$  centered at  $e_1$  is attained for some  $r = 1 + \gamma$  where  $\gamma > 0$ . We therefore find that

$$(3.2) \quad c = \sup_{\gamma > 0} \frac{1}{v_n (1 + \gamma)^n} \int_{r=0}^{2+\gamma} r^{n-\frac{n}{p}} A_r \frac{dr}{r},$$

where  $A_r = |\{\theta \in S^{n-1} : |r\theta - e_1| < 1 + \gamma\}|$ . Calculation gives that  $A_r = \omega_{n-1}$  for  $r \leq \gamma$  and  $A_r = \omega_{n-2} \int_{(r^2 - \gamma^2 - 2\gamma)/2r}^1 (1 - s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} ds$  for  $2 + \gamma > r > \gamma$ . We plug these values into (3.2), and we interchange the integration in  $r$  and  $s$ :

$$\int_{r=\gamma}^{2+\gamma} \int_{s=\frac{r^2-\gamma^2-2\gamma}{2r}}^1 r^{\frac{n}{p'}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} ds \frac{dr}{r} = \int_{-1}^1 \int_{r=\gamma}^{s+\sqrt{s^2+\gamma^2+2\gamma}} r^{\frac{n}{p'}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} \frac{dr}{r} ds.$$

We now let  $\delta = \gamma + 1$  and obtain (3.1). Note that the constant on the right-hand side of (3.1) reduces to the constant  $c_{p,n}$  of Theorem 2 when  $\delta = 1$ .

#### 4. FINAL REMARKS

We end with a couple of remarks. Let  $c_{n,p}$  be the constant of Theorem 2. We observe that  $c_{n,p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1}$ . This can be shown directly or via the following inequality which can be found in [HLP]:

$$(4.1) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x)g(x) dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{f}(x)\tilde{g}(x) dx,$$

where  $f$  and  $g$  are integrable and  $\tilde{f}$  denotes the symmetric decreasing rearrangement of any function  $f$ . Let  $T$  and  $S$  be the operators of Theorems 1 and 2. The nonsymmetric decreasing rearrangement of the kernel of  $S$  is the kernel of  $T$ . Taking  $g$  to be the kernel of  $S$  and  $f$  in  $L^p \cap L^1$  in (4.1), we obtain the pointwise inequality  $Sf \leq T\tilde{f}$ . It follows that  $c_{n,p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1}$ .

For any  $\delta > 0$ , we define variants  $T_\delta$  of  $T$  and  $S_\delta$  of  $S$  as follows:

$$(T_\delta f)(x) = \frac{1}{|D(0, \delta|x|)|} \int_{D(0, \delta|x|)} f(y) dy$$

and

$$(S_\delta f)(x) = \frac{1}{|D(x, \delta|x|)|} \int_{D(x, \delta|x|)} f(y) dy.$$

Since  $(T_\delta f)(x) = (Tf)(\delta x)$ , it is immediate that the operator norm of  $T_\delta$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is  $\frac{p}{p-1} \delta^{-n/p}$ .

To compute the operator norm of  $S_\delta$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we repeat the proof of Theorem 2 verbatim. We obtain the following result:

**Theorem.** (A) For  $\delta > 1$ , the operator norm of  $S_\delta$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is

$$p' \frac{\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_{n-1}} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \int_{-1}^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} (s + \sqrt{s^2 + \delta^2 - 1})^{\frac{n}{p'}} ds.$$

(B) For  $\delta < 1$ , the operator norm of  $S_\delta$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is

$$p' \frac{\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_{n-1}} \frac{1}{\delta^n} \int_{s=\sqrt{1-\delta^2}}^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} \left[ (s + \sqrt{s^2 + \delta^2 - 1})^{\frac{n}{p'}} - (s - \sqrt{s^2 + \delta^2 - 1})^{\frac{n}{p'}} \right] ds.$$

(3.1) is of course subsumed in conclusion (A) above.

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