POISSON INTEGRALS OF REGULAR FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. Tangential convergence of Poisson integrals is proved for certain spaces of regular functions which contain the spaces of Bessel potentials of L^p functions, $1 < p < \infty$, and of functions in the local Hardy space h^1 , and the corresponding tangential maximal functions are shown to be of strong p type, $p \geq 1$.

1. Introduction. It is well known that for a general L^p function f , $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, its Poisson integral $u(x, y) = P_y * f(x)$ ($P_y(z) = c_n y / (|z|^2 + y^2)^{(n+1)/2}$, $z \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $y > 0$) converges nontangentially to $f(x)$ a.e. when y tends to 0. It is also well known [18, p. 280] that for general L^p functions this result fails when convergence inside regions with some degree of tangentiality is considered.

However, tangential convergence holds for certain classes of functions: Nagel, Rudin, and Shapiro have recently established [14] the existence of tangential limits for a large class of potentials of L^p functions (see also [14] for earlier results). A particular instance are the spaces $L_a^p = \{J_a * f : f \in L^p\}$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, $(J_a)^\wedge(z) = (1 + |z|^2)^{-a/2}$, of Bessel potentials of L^p functions, for which explicit approach regions are given: if $1 \leq p \leq n/a$ and $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$, define $D_{a,p}(x)$ as

- (i) $D_{a,p}(x) = \{(z, y) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1} : |z - x| \leq y^{1-ap/n}\}$, $p < n/a$,
- (ii) $D_{a,p}(x) = \{(z, y) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1} : |z - x| \leq (\log 1/y)^{-(p-1)/n}, y \leq 1/e\}$, $p = n/a > 1$,
- (iii) $D_{n,1}(x) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1} : |z - x| \leq (\log 1/y)^{1/n}, y \leq 1/e\}$.

Then [14, Theorems 2.9, 3.13, and 5.5]

- (i) if $1 \leq p \leq n/a$ and $f \in L_a^p$, $u(x, y) = P_y * f(z)$ tends to $f(x)$ inside $D_{a,p}(x)$ for a.e. $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$;
- (ii) if $1 < p \leq n/a$, $f \in L_a^p$ and $0 < b < a$, $u(z, y)$ tends to $f(x)$ inside $D_{b,p}(x)$ for $B_{a-b,p}$ a.e. $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ($B_{s,t}$ denotes (s, t) Bessel capacity; see §2).

Note that if $a > n/p$ and $f \in L_a^p$, f is continuous.

Furthermore, it is shown in [14, Theorem 3.8] that the corresponding maximal operators $T_{a,p}f(x) = \sup\{|u(z, y)| : (z, y) \in D_{a,p}(x)\}$ verify $\|T_{a,p}f\|_p \leq C\|f\|_{L_a^p}$, whereas for $p = 1$ Nagel and Stein proved [15, Theorem 5] that if F is in the Hardy space H^1 , $\|T_{a,1}(J_a F)\|_1 \leq C\|F\|_{H^1}$, $a < n$ ([15] also contains results for Bessel potentials of H^p , $p > 0$).

The tangentiality of the approaching regions is shown in [14] to depend on the corresponding Bessel kernels J_a ; here we will see how it can also be related to the regularity of the L_a^p functions. In fact, similar results (Theorems 1 and 2 below) hold for a larger class of functions, which we now define. If $\mathbf{P}_k$ denotes the set of

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all polynomials of degree k , $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $t > 0$, $1 \leq r \leq \infty$ and $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}$, consider the "polynomial approximation" operator

$$E_r^k f(x, t) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_k} \inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}_k} \left(\int_Q |f - P|^r \right)^{1/r},$$

the sup taken over all cubes Q with $x \in Q$ and having Lebesgue measure $|Q| = t^n$ (throughout the paper $\int_E f$ or f_E stand for the mean $\int_E f dz/|E|$).

Now, if $a > 0$ and $m = [a]$, its integral part, we define $G_a f(x, t) = \sup_{s \leq t} s^{-a} E_1^m f(x, s)$, $G_a f(x) = G_a f(x, \infty)$ (in what follows, if $k = m$ and $r = 1$, we will write $E f(x, t)$ instead of $E_1^m f(x, t)$); then C_a^p , $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, denotes the space of those L^p functions f such that $G_a f \in L^p$; with the norm $\|f\|_{a,p} = \|f\|_p + \|G_a f\|_p$, C_a^p becomes a Banach space. These spaces were introduced by Calderón and Scott [4] and are extensively studied by Devore and Sharpley in [8].

Our results are given for a proper subset of C_a^p , the closed subspace F_a^p of those $f \in C_a^p$ such that $G_a f(x, t) = o(1)$ a.e. as t goes to 0 (in fact F_a^p , $p < \infty$, is the closure of C_0^∞ , the compactly supported C^∞ functions; see §3). C_a^p and F_a^p can be seen as global versions of the spaces $T_a^p(x)$ and $t_a^p(x)$ of Calderón and Zygmund [5]. If $1 < p < \infty$, L_a^p is continuously imbedded in F_a^p ; indeed, $f \in L_a^p$ iff $f \in L^p$ and

$$G_{a,2} f(x) = \left(\int_0^\infty E f(x, t)^2 t^{-2a-1} dt \right)^{1/2} \in L^p,$$

and $\|f\|_{L_a^p} \sim \|f\|_p + \|G_{a,2} f\|_p$ (see [9]; by $A \sim B$ we mean that $A/C \leq B \leq CA$, for some constant C ; in what follows C will stand for any constant independent of sets, points, or functions, and not necessarily the same on each appearance). However, although the imbedding $L_a^p \subset F_a^p$ is proper, the Poisson integrals of functions in F_a^p and L_a^p have the same tangential behavior:

THEOREM 1. *If $1 \leq p < n/a$ or $p = n/a > 1$ and $f \in F_a^p$, then $u(z, y) = P_y * f(z)$ tends to $f(x)$ a.e. when (z, y) tends to x inside $D_{a,p}(x)$.*

The restriction $p \leq n/a$ is due to the fact that functions in F_a^p are continuous when $p > n/a$, and the same is true in F_n^1 [8, p. 68].

For functions in F_a^p the exceptional set also becomes smaller when the tangentiality of the approach regions is decreased; in fact the results of [14] can be slightly improved:

THEOREM 2. (i) *If $f \in F_a^p$, $1 \leq p < n/a$, and $0 < b < a$, then $u(z, y)$ converges to $f(x)$ inside $D_{b,p}(x)$ for all x except a set of zero $H^{n-(a-b)p}$ Hausdorff measure; if moreover $p > 1$, u converges nontangentially to $f(x)$ $B_{a,p}$ -a.e.*

(ii) *If $p = n/a > 1$ and $p < r < \infty$, u converges to $f(x)$ inside $D_{n/r,r}(x)$ for $H^{np/r}$ -a.a. x , whereas if b is such that $0 \leq b < n/p$, u converges to $f(x)$ inside $D_{b,p}(x)$ for $B_{n/p,p}$ -a.a. x .*

Theorem 2 requires some explanation: functions in F_a^p are defined in principle only a.e.; Theorem 2 will be shown to hold after suitably redefining them on a zero measure set.

As could be expected, Theorems 1 and 2 are deduced from weak type estimates for the tangential maximal operators $T_{a,p} f(x) = \sup\{|u(z, y)| : (z, y) \in D_{a,p}(x)\}$, but since functions in F_a^p are not representable as potentials of L^p functions, we rely

on certain Sobolev and Trudinger type inequalities for them (Theorem 5). However, these weak type inequalities can be strengthened.

THEOREM 3. *If $f \in C_a^p$, $1 \leq p \leq n/a$, then $\|T_{a,p}f\|_p \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}$.*

The proof of Theorem 3 is modelled after that of Theorem 3.8 in [14], but with an important difference: the key argument in [14], Hansson's strong capacity estimates [10], is no longer available here and a strong estimate, valid if $1 \leq p < \infty$, for a certain C_a^p capacity type function, is proved (Theorem 6) along the lines of similar results by Adams [2] and Dahlberg [7].

Besides L_a^p , the so-called Triebel-Lizorkin spaces $F_a^{p,q}$, $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $a > 0$ (see [17] or §6 for the definition) are also continuously imbedded in F_a^p (Proposition 3) and therefore, the above theorems apply to them; we point out that if $1 < p < \infty$, $F_a^{p,2} = L_a^p$, whereas $F_a^{1,2}$ coincides with the space of Bessel potentials of functions in D. Goldberg's local Hardy space h^1 [17, p. 51]. We also remark that Y. Mizuta has recently proved [13] results similar to those of Theorems 1 and 2 for functions being locally in the Besov space $B_a^{p,p}$, $0 < a < 1$. Since $B_a^{p,p} = F_a^{p,p}$, Theorems 1 and 2 contain a global version of Mizuta's results.

The paper is organized as follows: §2 contains certain preliminary facts about capacities and Hausdorff measures. The spaces F_a^p are studied in some detail in §3. Theorems 1 and 2 are proved in §4 and Theorem 3 in §5. Finally, in §6 Triebel-Lizorkin spaces $F_a^{p,q}$, $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $a > 0$ are considered.

2. Preliminary results. For $a > 0$ J_a will denote the Bessel kernel of order a , $(J_a)^\wedge(z) = (1 + |z|^2)^{-a/2}$, and I_a the Riesz kernel, $I_a(z) = c_{n,a}|z|^{a-n}$, $0 < a < n$; we will also denote by J_a and I_a the corresponding potential operators. The Bessel capacity $B_{a,p}$ and the Riesz capacity $R_{a,p}$ are defined for $E \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ as

$$\begin{aligned} B_{a,p}(E) &= \inf\{\|f\|_p^p : f \geq 0, J_a f \geq \chi_E\}, & a > 0, \\ R_{a,p}(E) &= \inf\{\|f\|_p^p : f \geq 0, I_a f \geq \chi_E\}, & 0 < a < n/p \end{aligned}$$

(χ_E = characteristic function of E). If $a < n/p$,

$$R_{a,p}(E) \leq B_{a,p}(E) \leq C(R_{a,p}(E) + R_{a,p}(E)^{n/n-ap})$$

[1]; thus, both have the same zero sets (see [12] for more properties of $R_{a,p}$ and $B_{a,p}$).

If $f \in L^p$ we obviously have

$$(1) \quad R_{a,p}(\{|I_a f| > t\}) \leq (\|f\|_p/t)^p, \quad 0 < a < n/p;$$

$$(2) \quad B_{a,p}(\{|J_a f| > t\}) \leq (\|f\|_p/t)^p;$$

thus, if Mf denotes the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator, $Mf(x) = \sup\{|f|_Q : x \in Q\}$, (1), (2) and the obvious inequalities $M(I_a f) \leq I_a(Mf)$, $M(J_a f) \leq J_a(Mf)$ imply that the complements of the Lebesgue sets of $I_a f$ and $J_a f$ have zero $R_{a,p}$ and $B_{a,p}$ capacity respectively.

Related to $B_{a,p}$ and $R_{a,p}$ is the H^{n-ap} Hausdorff measure: if $0 < r \leq \infty$ and $E \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ we define

$$H_r^{n-ap}(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_0^\infty |Q_i|^{1-ap/n} \right\},$$

the inf taken over all coverings of E by cubes of side $\leq r$; then $H^{n-ap}(E) = \sup_r H_r^{n-ap}(E)$. H^{n-ap} is finer than $B_{a,p}$ in the sense that $B_{a,p}(E) \leq C H_\infty^{n-ap}(E)$ [12]. Here we shall use H_∞^{n-ap} rather than H^{n-ap} ; both have the same zero sets [6].

If $0 < a < n$, $1 \leq p < n/a$, and $f \in L^p$, we define

$$M_a f(x) = \sup\{|Q|^{a/n}|f|_Q : x \in Q\}.$$

LEMMA 1. For the above a, p , and f , $H_\infty^{n-ap}(\{M_a f > t\}) \leq C(\|f\|_p/t)^p$.

PROOF. For each $x \in E = \{M_a f > t\}$ there is a cube Q with $x \in Q$ and

$$t < |Q|^{a/n}|f|_Q \leq |Q|^{a/n-1/p} \left(\int_Q |f|^p \right)^{1/p};$$

hence, selecting [16, p. 9] a disjoint family $\{Q_i\}$ such that $E \subset \bigcup 5Q_i$ (rQ denotes the cube with same center as Q and side r times side (Q)), we have

$$H_\infty^{n-ap}(E) \leq C \sum |Q_i|^{1-ap/n} \leq C t^{-p} \sum \int_{Q_i} |f|^p \leq C(\|f\|_p/t)^p.$$

Obviously, the same estimate holds with M_a replaced by $(M_{as}|f|^s)^{1/s}$, $1 < s \leq p$. Also, if we define for $0 < r \leq 1/100$ and $\varphi(t) = (\log 1/t)^{1-p}$, $H_r^\varphi(E) = \inf\{\sum \varphi(|Q_i|) : E \subset \bigcup Q_i, Q_i \text{ cubes, side } Q_i \leq r\}$ and the maximal operator $M_\varphi g(x) = \sup\{\int_Q |g|/\varphi(|Q|) : x \in Q, \text{ side } Q \leq 1/1000\}$, the above argument gives the estimate

$$H_{1/100}^\varphi(\{M_\varphi g > t\}) \leq C\|g\|_1/t.$$

LEMMA 2. If $0 < b \leq a < n$, $1 \leq p < n/a$ and $f \in L^p$, then

$$H_\infty^{n-(a-b)p}(\{I_a f > t\}) \leq C(\|f\|_p/t)^{p(n-(a-b)p)/(n-ap)}.$$

PROOF. The desired inequality follows from Lemma 1 once we prove

$$(3) \quad |I_a f(x)| \leq C\|f\|_p^{bp/(n-(a-b)p)} M_{a-b} f(x)^{1-bp/(n-(a-b)p)};$$

now, as in [11, Theorem 1], we have for any $r > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} |I_a f(x)| &\leq C \left(\int_{|z| \leq r} + \int_{|z| > r} \right) |f(x-z)| |z|^{a-n} dz \\ &\leq C \sum_0^\infty (2^{-k}r)^{a-n} \int_{|z| \leq 2^{-k}r} |f(x+z)| dz + Cr^{a-n/p} \|f\|_p \\ &\leq C(r^b M_{a-b} f(x) + r^{a-n/p} \|f\|_p) \end{aligned}$$

and (3) follows if we choose $r = (M_{a-b} f(x)/\|f\|_p)^{1/(a-b-n/p)}$

LEMMA 3. There is a constant C_I such that $M(I_a f) \leq C_I I_a f$ for all positive f . Also, there is a C_J such that $\int_Q J_a f(x+z) dz \leq C_J J_a f(x)$ for all cubes Q centered at 0 with side ≤ 10 and all $f \geq 0$.

PROOF. If Q has center 0, an easy computation gives $\int_Q I_a(x+z) dz \leq C_I I_a(x)$; if moreover side $(Q) \leq 10$, $\int_Q J_a(x+z) dz \leq C_J J_a(x)$ [3, p. 418]. The lemma now follows.

As a consequence, if $g \geq 0$ and $f = J_a g$, $mf(x) \leq Cf(x)$, where m denotes the "local" maximal operator $mf(x) = \sup\{|f|_Q : x \in Q, |Q| \leq 5^n\}$.

3. The spaces F_a^p . We fix $a > 0$, $m = [a]$ and p such that $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. We first show that Ef can be defined using a minimizing polynomial on each cube Q ; in fact, if $P_Q f$ denotes the unique polynomial in $\mathbf{P}_m$ such that for any $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) \in \mathbf{N}^n$ with $|\gamma| = \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_n \leq m$,

$$\int_Q (f(y) - P_Q f(y)) y^\gamma dy = 0,$$

then [8, p. 17]

$$(4) \quad \text{if } D^\gamma = (\partial/\partial x_1)^{\gamma_1} \dots (\partial/\partial x_n)^{\gamma_n}, \text{ ess sup}_Q |D^\gamma P_Q f| \leq C|Q|^{-|\gamma|/n} |f|_Q;$$

it now follows that

$$(5) \quad \text{for any } R \in \mathbf{P}_k, \quad \int_Q |f - P_Q f| \leq C \int_Q |f - R|,$$

and therefore, $Ef(x, t) \sim \sup\{\int_Q |f - P_Q f| : x \in Q, |Q| = t^n\}$;

$$(6) \quad \text{if } Q \subset Q', \quad \int_Q |f - P_Q f| \leq C(|Q'|/|Q|) \int_{Q'} |f - P_{Q'} f|;$$

in particular, if $Q_{x,t}$ denotes the cube with center x and side t ,

$$G_a f(x) \sim \sup_{t>0} t^{-a} \int_{Q_{x,t}} |f - P_{Q_{x,t}} f|;$$

also, balls can be used instead of cubes to define Ef and $G_a f$.

Fix next $x \in Q$, $|Q| = t^n$ and let $Q_1 \subset Q_2 \subset \dots \subset Q_k = Q$ be a sequence of cubes with $x \in Q_1$ and $|Q_{i+1}| = 2^n |Q_i|$, $i = 1, \dots, k-1$; writing the polynomials $P_{Q_i} f$ as $P_{Q_i} f(y) = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq m} c_\gamma(Q_i) (y-x)^\gamma / \gamma!$, we have by (4)

$$\begin{aligned} (7) \quad |c_\gamma(Q_1) - c_\gamma(Q)| &\leq \sum_1^{k-1} |c_\gamma(Q_i) - c_\gamma(Q_{i+1})| \\ &\leq \sum |D^\gamma (P_{Q_i} f - P_{Q_{i+1}} f)(x)| \\ &\leq C \sum (2^{-i} t)^{-|\gamma|} Ef(x, 2^{-i} t) \\ &\leq C \int_{2^{-k} t}^t Ef(x, s) s^{-|\gamma|-1} ds; \end{aligned}$$

in particular, since $P_Q f(x) = c_0(Q)$ tends to $f(x)$ a.e. [8, p. 9], we have

$$(8) \quad |f(x) - c_0(Q)| = |f(x) - P_Q f(x)| \leq C \int_0^t Ef(x, s) ds/s.$$

Next, $C_a^p = \{f \in L^p : \|f\|_{a,p} = \|f\|_p + \|G_a f\|_p\}$ is a Banach space [8, p. 37] and $F_a^p = \{f \in C_a^p : G_a f(x, t) = o(1)\}$ can also be defined as the subspace of those $f \in C_a^p$ such that $\|G_a f(\cdot, t)\|_p = o(1)$: indeed, since $G_a f(x, t) \leq G_a f(x)$, if $f \in F_a^p$, $\|G_a f(\cdot, t)\|_p = o(1)$ by dominated convergence; conversely, $\|G_a f(\cdot, t)\|_p = o(1)$ implies that $G_a f(x, t_j) = o(1)$ for some subsequence t_j , but then $f \in F_a^p$, for $G_a f(x, t) \leq G_a f(x, t_j)$ if $t \leq t_j$. Furthermore, it can be easily checked that F_a^p is a closed subspace of C_a^p .

Also, if a is not an integer and $f \in C_a^p$, for a.e. x there is a polynomial $P_x f \in \mathbf{P}_m$ such that [8, p. 32]

$$C'G_a f(x, t) \leq S_a f(x, t) = \sup_{s \leq t} \int_{Q_{x,s}} s^{-a} |f - P_x f| \leq CG_a f(x, t);$$

if $0 < a < 1$, $P_x f$ is the constant polynomial $f(x)$. Furthermore, setting $\chi_t = t^{-n} \chi_{Q_{0,t}}$, (4) gives for $t \geq 1$

$$t^{-a} E f(x, t) \leq C \int_1^\infty |f| * \chi_s(x) s^{-a-1} ds$$

and therefore,

$$\left\| \sup_{t \geq 1} t^{-a} E f(x, t) \right\|_p \leq C \int_1^\infty \| |f| * \chi_s \|_p s^{-a-1} ds \leq C \|f\|_p;$$

as a consequence, $\|f\|_{a,p} \sim \|f\|_p + \|G_a(\cdot, 1)\|_p$.

THEOREM 4. *For all positive a and b , J_b is an isomorphism from C_a^p and F_a^p onto C_{a+b}^p and F_{a+b}^p respectively; that is, if $f \in F_{a+b}^p$ (C_{a+b}^p) there is a unique $g \in F_a^p$ (C_a^p) such that $f = J_b g$ and $\|f\|_{a+b,p} \sim \|g\|_{a,p}$.*

PROOF. Assuming $b < n$ (the general case follows by the semigroup property of J) we show first that $\|J_b f\|_{a+b,p} \leq C \|f\|_{a,p}$. Fix $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ and Q with $x \in Q$, $|Q| = t^n$; if $T(u, v) = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq p} D^\gamma J_b(u) v^\gamma / \gamma!$ denotes the Taylor polynomial of degree $p = [a + b]$ of J_b at u , consider the polynomial in y

$$R_Q(y) = P_Q f * J_b(y) + \int_{c_{2Q}} (f(z) - P_Q f(z)) T(x - z, y - x) dz;$$

since $|D^\gamma J_b(u)| \leq C(1 + |u|^{b-n-|\gamma|})e^{-|u|}$ [5, p. 192], R_Q is well defined and

$$\begin{aligned} |J_b f(y) - R_Q(y)| &\leq \int_{2Q} |f(z) - P_Q f(z)| J_b(y - z) dz \\ &\quad + \int_{c_{2Q}} |f(z) - P_Q f(z)| |J_b(y - z) - T(x - z, y - x)| dz \\ &= \text{I} + \text{II}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly,

$$(9) \quad \int_Q \text{I} dy \leq \int_{2Q} |f(z) - P_Q f(z)| \int_Q J_b(y - z) dy \leq C t^b E f(x, 2t),$$

and by Taylor's formula and the fact that $|x - z + \theta(y - x)| \geq |x - z|/2$ if $\theta \leq 1$ and $|x - z| \geq 2|x - y|$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II} &\leq C t^{p+1} \int_{c_{2Q}} |f(z) - P_Q f(z)| \cdot |x - z|^{b-n-p-1} dz \\ &\leq C t^{p+1} \sum_0^\infty (2^k t)^{b-m-1} \left(E f(x, 2^k t) + \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{2^k Q} |P_{2^k Q} f - P_Q f| \right); \end{aligned}$$

writing $P_{2^k Q} f(z) = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq m} c_\gamma (2^k Q)(z-x)^\gamma / \gamma!$, (7) gives for $z \in 2^k Q$

$$|P_{2^k Q} f(z) - P_Q f(z)| \leq C \sum_0^m (2^k t)^j \int_t^{2^k t} E f(x, s) s^{-j-1} ds,$$

which, since $a + b - p - 1 < 0$, implies by Fubini's theorem

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} \Pi &\leq C t^{p+1} \left(\int_t^\infty s^{b-p-1} \left(E f(x, s) + \sum_0^m s^j \int_t^s E f(x, u) u^{-j-1} du \right) ds/s \right) \\ &\leq C t^{p+1} \int_t^\infty s^{b-p-1} E f(x, s) ds/s. \end{aligned}$$

Now, putting (9) and (10) together,

$$\begin{aligned} E J_b f(x, t) &\leq C \left(t^b E f(x, 2t) + t^{p+1} \int_t^\infty s^{b-p-1} E f(x, s) ds/s \right) \\ &\leq C t^{a+b} G_a f(x), \end{aligned}$$

and thus, $\|J_b f\|_{a+b, p} \leq C \|f\|_{a, p}$. Also, if $f \in F_a^p$, given $\varepsilon > 0$ and T such that $G_a f(x, T) \leq \varepsilon$,

$$\begin{aligned} t^{-a-b} E J_b f(x, t) &\leq C \left(\varepsilon + t^{p+1-a-b} \left(\int_t^T + \int_T^\infty \right) (s^{b-p-1} E f(x, s) ds/s) \right) \\ &\leq C(\varepsilon + (t/T)^{p+1-a-b} G_b f(x)) \leq C\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

if t is small enough; hence $J_b f \in F_{a+b}^p$.

Next, if $f \in F_a^p$, $a > 1$, its weak partials $f_i = \partial f / \partial x_i$ verify $\|G_{a-1} f_i\|_p \leq C \|G_a f\|_p$ [8, p. 42], and also $|f_i(x)| \leq C(G_a f(x) + |f|_{Q_{x,1}})$ and

$$E f_i(x, t) \leq C \left(\int_0^t M(E f(\cdot, s))(x) s^{-2} ds + E f(x, 2t)/t \right)$$

[9, Theorem 3 and Lemma 1]; hence $f_i \in F_{a-1}^p$. This and the obvious imbeddings $F_a^p \subset F_{a-\varepsilon}^p$ imply that $I - \Delta$ maps F_a^p , $a > 2$, into F_{a-2}^p and $\|(I - \Delta)f\|_{a-2, p} \leq C \|f\|_{a, p}$. Therefore, if $0 < b < 2$ and $f \in F_{a+b}^p$, $a > 0$, $f = J_b(I - \Delta)J_{2-b}f = J_b g$, where $g \in F_a^p$ and $\|f\|_{a+b, p} \sim \|g\|_{a, p}$. The same argument works for the C_a^p and for a general $b > 0$. The theorem follows by the semigroup properties of J .

PROPOSITION 1. C_0^∞ is dense in F_a^p , $1 \leq p < \infty$.

PROOF. Supposing first $0 < a < 1$, let $\varphi \geq 0$ be a C^∞ function with $\varphi(x) = 1$ when $|x| \leq 1/10$, $\varphi(x) = 0$ when $|x| \geq 1$ and $\int \varphi dx = 1$, and set $\varphi_r(x) = r^{-n} \varphi(x/r)$, $r > 0$. If $f \in F_a^p$ and $f_r = f * \varphi_r(x)$, an easy computation yields $G_a f_r(x, t) \leq C \varphi_r * G_a f(\cdot, t)(x)$. Thus, given ε , if $\|G_a f(\cdot, T)\|_p \leq \varepsilon$ and r is small enough, (4) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|G_a(f - f_r)\|_p &\leq C \|G_a f(\cdot, T)\|_p + C \left\| \int_T^\infty t^{-a} |f - f_r| * \chi_t(\cdot) dt/t \right\|_p \\ &\leq C \|G_a f(\cdot, T)\|_p + C \int_T^\infty \|f - f_r\|_p t^{-a-1} dt \\ &\leq C\varepsilon + C T^{-a} \|f - f_r\|_p \leq C\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Next, setting $\varphi^r(x) = \varphi(rx)$ and $f^r(x) = f(x)\varphi^r(x)$, where $f \in C^\infty \cap C_a^p$, it easily follows that

$$\int_{|y| \leq t} |f^r(x+y) - f^r(x)| dy \leq C \|\varphi^r\|_\infty E f(x, t) + t \|\nabla \varphi^r\|_\infty |f(x)|;$$

thus, given ε , if $T^{1-a} \|f\|_p \leq \varepsilon$, $\|G_a f(\cdot, T)\|_p \leq \varepsilon$, and r is small enough, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|G_a(f - f^r)\|_p &\leq C \|G_a f(\cdot, T)\|_p + CT^{1-a} \|f\|_p \\ &\quad + C \left\| \int_T^\infty |f - f^r| * \chi_t(\cdot) t^{-a-1} dt \right\|_p \\ &\leq C\varepsilon + CT^{-a} \|f - f^r\|_p \leq C\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, C_0^∞ is dense in F_a^p , which together with Theorem 4 implies the density of $C^\infty \cap F_a^p$ in F_a^p for all $a > 0$. Finally, the density of C_0^∞ in these F_a^p follows as before.

If $a > n/p$ functions in C_a^p are continuous [8, p. 74], whereas if $a \leq n/p$ they have a considerable degree of integrability.

PROPOSITION 2. *If $1 \leq p < n/a$, $q = np/n - ap$ and $f \in C_a^p$,*

$$\left(\int_Q |f - P_Q f|^q \right)^{1/q} \leq C |Q|^{a/n} \left(\int_Q (G_a f)^p \right)^{1/p}$$

for any cube Q ; if $p > 1$, $a = n/p$ and $p' = p/p - 1$, there are constants C, β such that for any cube Q

$$\int_Q \exp(\beta(|f - P_Q f|/\|G_a f \chi_Q\|_p)^{p'}) \leq C.$$

This result, essentially proved in [8, Lemma 4.2] also follows easily by the Sobolev and Trudinger inequalities for Riesz potentials [11, 16] from the next theorem.

THEOREM 5. *If $0 < r \leq 1$, $a \leq n/p$ and $f \in C_a^p$, then for any cube Q and a.e. $y \in Q$,*

$$(11) \quad |f(y) - P_Q f(y)|^r \leq C I_{ar}(G_a f \chi_{4Q})^r(y).$$

PROOF. Denoting by $B_{y,s}$ the ball with center y and side s , and by S_{n-1} the unit sphere in $\mathbf{R}^n$, an easy modification of (8) together with (6), polar coordinates and Fubini's theorem give

$$\begin{aligned} |f(y) - P_Q f(y)|^r &\leq C \int_0^t E f(y, s)^r ds/s \\ &\leq C \int_0^t \left(\int_{B_{y,s}} E f(z, s)^r dz \right) ds/s \\ &\leq C \int_0^{2t} s^{ar} \int_{B_{y,s}} G_a f(z)^r dz ds/s \\ &= C \int_0^{2t} s^{az-n} \int_0^s \int_{S_{n-1}} G_a f(x + uy')^r u^{n-1} du dy' ds/s \\ &\leq C \int_0^{2t} \int_{S_{n-1}} u^{ar-n} G_a f(x + uy')^r u^{n-1} dy' du \\ &\leq C I_{ar}(G_a f \chi_{4Q})^r(y). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that since $I_a \sim J_a$ near 0, $|f(y) - P_Q f(y)| \leq C J_a(G_a f \chi_{4Q})(y)$; also $\|P_Q f \chi_Q\|_\infty \leq C |f|_Q$ tends to 0 if $|Q|$ tends to ∞ , and hence, $|f| \leq C I_a(G_a f)$ a.e. in $\mathbf{R}^n$, $0 < a < n/p$. Furthermore, if $1 \leq s < q$, (11) implies $E_s f(x, t) \leq C t^a (M(G_a f)^r(x))^{1/r}$ for some $r < p$; therefore

$$(12) \quad \left\| \sup_t t^{-a} E_s f(\cdot, t) \right\|_p \sim \|G_a f\|_p,$$

which for the same s and $k \geq m$ extends to [8, p. 27]

$$(13) \quad \sup_t t^{-a} E_s^k f(x, t) \sim \sup_t t^{-a} E_s f(x, t).$$

Finally we note that since $||f(x+y)| - |f(x)|| \leq |f(x+y) - f(x)|$, if $f \in C_a^p$ or F_a^p , $0 < a < 1$, so does $|f|$ and $\||f|\|_{a,p} \leq \|f\|_{a,p}$.

4. Tangential boundary values. We derive now Theorems 1 and 2 from pointwise estimates for the corresponding tangential maximal functions.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. If $f \in F_a^p$ and $u(x, y) = P_y * f(x)$, define $T_{a,p} f(x) = \sup\{|u(z, y)| : (z, y) \in D_{a,p}(x)\}$; we will show

$$(14) \quad T_{a,p} f(x_0) \leq C(Mf(x_0) + (M(G_a f)^p(x_0))^{1/p});$$

obviously, (14) implies that $|\{T_{a,p} f > t\}| \leq C(\|f\|_{a,p}/t)^p$, and standard arguments give then Theorem 1.

Suppose $x_0 = 0$; if $(x, y) \in D_{a,p}(0)$ and $Q = Q_{0,2|x|}$, we have

$$|u(x, y)| = \left| \left(\int_Q + \int_{^c Q} \right) f(z) P_y(x - z) dz \right| = \text{I} + \text{II};$$

if $z \in {}^c Q$, $|z - x| \geq |z|/2$ and $P_y(x - z) \leq P_y(z/2)$; thus,

$$\text{II} \leq \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} |f(z)| P_y(z/2) dz \leq C M f(0).$$

Next, by (4),

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I} &\leq \int_Q |f(z) - P_Q f(z)| P_y(x - z) dz + \int_Q |P_Q f(z)| P_y(x - z) dz \\ &\leq \text{III} + C M f(0) \int_Q P_y(x - z) dz \leq \text{III} + C M f(0). \end{aligned}$$

If $a < n/p$, $q = np/n - ap$ and $q' = q/q - 1$, Hölder's inequality and Proposition 2 give

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} &\leq \|P_y\|_{q'} \left(\int_Q |f - P_Q f|^q \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq C y^{-n/q} |x|^{a+n/q} |x|^{-a} \left(\int_Q |P_Q f|^q \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq C y^{-n/q} |x|^{n/p} (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p} \\ &\leq C (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p}, \end{aligned}$$

since $|x| < y^{p/q}$; thus, (14) is proved in this case.

If $a = n/p$, $p > 1$ and $p' = p/p - 1$, we will use an Orlicz space version of Hölder's inequality: if $\phi(t) = t(\log(1+t))^{1/p'}$ and Ψ is its conjugate Orlicz function, then $\Psi(t) \leq Ce^{\alpha t^{p'}}$ for appropriate C and α , and therefore [18, p. 171]

$$\left| \int_Q gh \, dz \right| \leq \|g\|_\phi \max \left(1, \int_Q \Psi(h) \, dz \right) \leq C \|g\|_\phi \int_Q e^{\alpha|h|^{p'}} \, dz,$$

where $\|g\|_\phi$ denotes the ϕ -Orlicz norm of $g\chi_Q$ with respect to $dz/|Q|$. This inequality and Proposition 2 imply

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} &\leq C \|G_a f \chi_Q\|_p |Q| \int_Q P_y(x-z) \frac{|f(z) - P_Q f(z)|}{\|G_a f \chi_Q\|_p} \, dz \\ &\leq C |x|^{n+n/p} (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p} \|P_y(x-\cdot)\|_\phi \int_Q \exp \left(\beta \left(\frac{|f - P_Q f|}{\|G_a f \chi_Q\|_p} \right)^{p'} \right) \, dz \\ &\leq C |x|^{n+n/p} (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p} \|P_y(x-\cdot)\|_\phi. \end{aligned}$$

But $\|P_y(x-\cdot)\|_\phi = \inf \{t: \int_Q \phi(P_y(x-z)/t) \, dz \leq 1\}$ [18, p. 173]; thus, if $T = C_0(\log 1/y)^{1/p'}/|Q|$, C_0 to be fixed later, then $T \geq C_0/2^n |x|^n (\log 1/y)^{p/p'} \geq C_0 2^{-n}$, for $(x, y) \in D_{a,p}(0)$, and therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_Q (P_y(x-z)/T) (\log(1 + P_y(x-z)/T))^{1/p'} \, dz \\ &\leq \int_{2Q} P_y(z) (\log(1 + c_n y^{-n}))^{1/p'} \, dz / T |Q| \\ &\leq C ((\log 1/y)^{1/p'} / T |Q|) \int_{2Q} P_y(z) \, dz \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

for an appropriate C_0 . Hence, $\|P_y(x-\cdot)\|_\phi \leq T$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} &\leq C |x|^{n+n/p} |x|^{-n} (\log 1/y)^{1/p'} (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p} \\ &\leq C (M(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. If $1 < p < n/a$, Theorem 5 and Lemma 3 imply that $Mf(x) \leq CI_a G_a f(x)$, and it easily follows that f can be redefined in a zero measure set so that the complement of the Lebesgue set of the new f has zero $R_{a,p}$, and hence, $B_{a,p}$ capacity; clearly this implies nontangential convergence $B_{a,p}$ -a.e. When $p = 1$, the embeddings $F_a^1 \subset F_{a-n/p'}^p \subset L_{a-n/p'-e}^p$, $1 < p < n/n-a$, $e > 0$ [8, pp. 72 and 58] tell us that any $f \in F_a^1$ can be redefined in a zero measure set so that the complement of its Lebesgue set has zero $B_{a-n/p'-e,p}$ capacity and hence, zero $H^{(n-a)p+pe}$ Hausdorff measure [12]. Thus, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we have nontangential convergence of $P_y * f$ for all x outside a set of zero $H^{n-a+\varepsilon}$ Hausdorff measure.

Next, if $0 < b < a$, fix $x_0 = 0$ and $(x, y) \in D_{b,p}(0)$. Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain $|u(x, y)| \leq \text{III} + CMf(0)$, and setting $r = np/n - bp$, Hölder's

inequality and Theorem 5 imply

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} &\leq Cy^{-n/r} |x|^{a+n/r} |x|^{-a} \left(\int_Q |f - P_Q f|^q \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq Cy^{-n/r} |x|^{n/p+a-b} \left(\int_Q (G_a f)^p \right)^{1/p} \leq C|x|^{a-b} \left(\int_Q (G_a f)^p \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq C(M_{(a-b)p}(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p}, \end{aligned}$$

since $|x| \leq y^{p/r}$. Also, $Mf \leq CI_a G_a f$ and therefore

$$T_{b,p} f(0) \leq C(M_{(a-b)p}(G_a f)^p(0))^{1/p} + CI_a(G_a f)(0),$$

which by Lemmas 1 and 2 gives

$$\begin{aligned} H_\infty^{n-(a-b)p}(\{T_{b,p} f > t\}) &\leq H_\infty^{n-(a-b)p}(\{M_{(a-b)p}(G_a f)^p > t^p/C\}) \\ &\quad + H_\infty^{n-(a-b)p}(\{I_a G_a f > t/C\}) \\ &\leq C(\|G_a f\|_p/t)^p + C(\|G_a f\|_p/t)^{p(n-(a-b)p)/n-ap} \end{aligned}$$

and standard arguments finish now the proof of part (i).

In part (ii) we first divide $\mathbf{R}^n$ into a mesh of disjoint cubes of side $1/1000$. If x is in such a cube Q' ,

$$u(x, y) = \int P_y(x-z)(f\chi_{4Q'}(z) + f\chi_{c_{4Q'}}(z)) dz = u_1(x, y) + u_2(x, y),$$

and since $|u_2(x, y)| \leq Cy^{1/p'} \|f\|_p$ tends to 0 with y uniformly in $2Q'$, it is enough to study the convergence of u_1 . Fix now $x_0 = 0$, $(x, y) \in D_{n/r, r}(0)$, $p < r < \infty$ and $Q = Q_{0, 2|x|}$, and assume $0 \in Q'$ with Q' in the above mesh, and y small enough so that side $Q \leq 1/1000$. Using again the Orlicz space version of Hölder's inequality, this time with the function $\phi(t) = t(\log(1+t))^{1/r'}$, we obtain as in Theorem 1

$$\begin{aligned} |u_1(x, y)| &\leq \text{III} + CM(f\chi_{4Q'})(0) \\ &\leq C(\log 1/y)^{1/r'} \|G_{n/p} f \chi_Q\|_p + CM(f\chi_{4Q'})(0); \end{aligned}$$

now, Theorem 5, Lemma 3, and (4) give

$$\begin{aligned} M(f\chi_{4Q'})(0) &\leq CM(I_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f \chi_{8Q'})(0) + C|f|_{8Q'}) \\ &\leq CI_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f \chi_{8Q'})(0) + CJ_{n/p}(|f| \chi_{8Q'})(0) \\ &\leq CJ_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|)(0), \end{aligned}$$

and since $(x, y) \in D_{n/r, r}(0)$,

$$\begin{aligned} |u_1(x, y)| &\leq C|x|^{n/r} \left(\int_Q (G_{n/p} f)^p \right)^{1/p} + CJ_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|)(0) \\ &\leq C(M_{n-np/r}(G_{n/p} f)^p(0))^{1/p} + CJ_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|)(0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, defining $T'_{s,t} f(x) = \sup\{|u_1(z, y)| : (z, y) \in D_{s,t}(x)\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_\infty^{np/r}(\{T'_{n/r, r} f > t\}) &\leq H_\infty^{np/r}(\{M_{n-np/r}(G_{n/p} f)^p > t^p/C\}) \\ &\quad + H_\infty^{np/r}(\{J_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|) > t/C\}) \\ &= \text{I} + \text{II}, \end{aligned}$$

where $I \leq C \|G_{n/p} f\|_p^p / t^p$, by Lemma 1. Also, since

$$J_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|) = J_{n/p-e}(J_e(G_{n/p} f + |f|)) \leq I_{n/p-e} F,$$

with $F = J_e(G_{n/p} f + |f|)$, then, if $e < n/r$, Lemma 2 implies that

$$II \leq C(\|F\|_p/t)^{np/re} \leq C(\|f\|_{n/p,p}/t)^{np/re}.$$

Convergence inside $D_{n/r,r}(x)$ for $H^{np/r}$ -a.a. x follows now by standard arguments from these estimates.

Finally, if $0 \leq b < n/p$ and $(x, y) \in D_{b,p}(0)$, $\log 1/y \leq C \log 1/|x|$, and proceeding as before, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |u_1(x, y)| &\leq C((\log 1/|x|)^{p-1} \int_Q (G_{n/p} f)^p)^{1/p} + CM(f\chi_{4Q'})(0) \\ &\leq C(M_\varphi(G_{n/p} f)^p(0))^{1/p} + CJ_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|)(0), \end{aligned}$$

with M_φ as in §2, and since $B_{n/p,p} \leq CH_{1/100}^\varphi$ [12], it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} B_{n/p,p}(\{T'_{b,p} f > t\}) &\leq CH_{1/100}^\varphi(\{M_\varphi(G_{n/p} f)^p > t^p/C\}) \\ &\quad + B_{n/p,p}(\{J_{n/p}(G_{n/p} f + |f|) > t/C\}) \\ &\leq C(\|f\|_{n/p,p}/t)^p, \end{aligned}$$

and again standard arguments can be used to finish the proof.

5. Strong L^p estimates. The proof of Theorem 3 depends on a strong inequality for a certain capacity type set function associated to C_a^p which we now define. Fix a, b and p with $0 < b < a$ and $1 \leq p < \infty$, and for any $E \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ denote by $O_{a,p}^b(E)$ the set $\{g \in C_b^p: g \geq 0, J_{a-b}g \geq \chi_E\}$; we define then

$$U_{a,p}^b(E) = \inf\{(\|g\|_{b,p})^p: g \in O_{a,p}^b(E)\}.$$

Obviously, $U_{a,p}^b(E) \leq U_{a,p}^b(E')$ if $E \subset E'$ and $U_{a,p}^b(E \cup F) \leq C(U_{a,p}^b(E) + U_{a,p}^b(F))$; furthermore, by Theorem 4, if $g \in C_b^p$,

$$(15) \quad U_{a,p}^b(\{J_{a-b}(g) > t\}) \leq (\|g\|_{b,p}/t)^p \leq C(\|J_{a-b}g\|_{a,p}/t)^p;$$

it can also be proved that $U_{a,p}^b \sim U_{a,p}^{b'}$ if $0 < b, b' < a$ and that $R_{a,p} \leq CU_{a,p}^b$, $a < n/p$; since we clearly have $U_{a,p}^b \leq CB_{a,p}$, it follows that $R_{a,p}$, $B_{a,p}$ and $U_{a,p}^b$ have the same zero sets when $a < n/p$ (Lemma 3 and (15) imply that any $f \in F_a^p$ can be modified in a set of measure zero so that the complement of its Lebesgue set has zero $U_{a,p}^b$ "capacity", and hence zero $B_{a,p}$ capacity if $1 < p < \infty$).

$U_{a,p}^b$ satisfies the following strong type inequality.

THEOREM 6. *If $0 < b < a$, $1 \leq p < \infty$, and $g \in C_b^p$, $g \geq 0$, then*

$$\int_0^\infty s^{p-1} U_{a,p}^b(\{J_{a-b}g > s\}) ds \leq C(\|J_{a-b}g\|_{a,p})^p.$$

Once this is proved, Theorem 3 is deduced as in [14]: given $A \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ and $B \subset \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1}$ set $S(A) = \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1} - \bigcup\{C(x): x \notin A\}$, with $C(x) = \{(z, y) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{n+1}: |z - x| \leq y\}$, and $J(B) = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n: B \cap D_{a,p}(x) \neq \emptyset\}$; then, if $g \in O_{a,p}^b(E)$, and $g' = J_{a-b}g$, $J(S(E)) \subset \{T_{a,p}g' \geq C_0\}$ for some numerical C_0 , and the weak inequalities of

Theorem 1 give $|J(S(E))| \leq C(\|g\|_{b,p})^p$. Thus, taking inf in $O_{a,p}^b(E)$, we obtain $|J(S(E))| \leq CU_{a,p}^b(E)$. Now, if $f \in C_a^p$,

$$\{T_{a,p}f > s\} \subset J(S(\{Nf > s/C\})),$$

where $Nf(x) = \sup\{|u(x, y)| : y > 0\}$; writing $f = J_{a-b}(g)$, $g \in C_b^p$, $0 < b < 1$, we have $Nf(x) \leq J_{a-b}(N(|g|))(x)$, but

$$\int |g|(x' - z)P_y(z) dz = \int_{|z| \leq 2} + \int_{|z| > 2} = \text{I} + \text{II},$$

and standard arguments give $\text{I} \leq Cm(|g|)(x')$, which since $|g| = J_{b-e}h$, $h \in C_e^p$, implies $\text{I} \leq Cm(J_{b-e}|h|)(x') \leq CJ_{b-e}|h|(x')$, by Lemma 3. Also, if $y \leq 1$ and $|z| \geq 2$, $P_y(z) \leq C/(1+|z|)^{n+1} = Q(z)$ and $\text{II} \leq Q * |g|(x')$, which belongs to C_b^p . Therefore $Nf \leq C(J_{a-e}|h| + J_{a-b}(Q * |g|))$, and since $\|Q * |g|\|_{b,p} \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}$ and $\| |h| \|_{e,p} \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}$, Theorem 6 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_{a,p}f\|_p^p &= p \int_0^\infty s^{p-1} |\{T_{a,p}f > s\}| ds \\ &\leq C \int_0^\infty s^{p-1} U_{a,p}^b(\{Nf > s/C\}) ds \\ &\leq C \int_0^\infty s^{p-1} (U_{a,p}^b(\{J_{a-b}(J_{b-e}|h|) > s\})) \\ &\quad + (U_{a,p}^b(\{J_{a-b}(Q * |g|) > s\})) ds \\ &\leq C(\| |h| \|_{e,p}^p + \|Q * |g|\|_{b,p}^p) \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}^p. \end{aligned}$$

Our proof of Theorem 6 is an adaptation and simplification of the one given by Dahlberg in [7]; we need a preliminary lemma.

LEMMA 4. *Let h be a C^∞ function with $h(t) = 0$ if $t < 0$, and $|t^{j-1}h^{(j)}(t)| \leq A$, $0 \leq j \leq m+1$, $m = [a]$. Then if $f = J_{a-b}g$, with $g \in C_b^p$, and $g \geq 0$, $h(f) \in C_a^p$ and $\|h(f)\|_{a,p} \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}$.*

PROOF. We will estimate $G_a h(f)(x, 1)$ using the centered version of E (see §3). Fix $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and write Q for $Q_{x,t}$, where we assume $t \leq 1$. Writing $P_Q f(y) = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq m} c_\gamma(t)(y-x)^\gamma/\gamma!$, define

$$R(y) = f(x) + \sum_{0 < |\gamma| \leq m} c_\gamma(t)(y-x)^\gamma/\gamma!;$$

by (4) and Lemma 3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} |R(y)| &\geq f(x) - C \sum_{0 < |\gamma| \leq m} f_Q(|y-x|/t)^{|\gamma|} \\ &\geq f(x) \left(1 - C \sum_{0 < |\gamma| \leq m} (|y-x|/t)^{|\gamma|} \right); \end{aligned}$$

thus, if $|x-y| < \varepsilon t$ with ε small enough, $R(y) > Cf(x)$. Considering now the polynomial

$$S(y) = \sum_0^m h^{(j)}(R(x))(R(y) - R(x))^j/j!,$$

Taylor's formula and (8) give

$$\begin{aligned} |h(f(y)) - S(y)| &\leq |h(f(y)) - h(R(y))| + |h(R(y)) - S(y)| \\ &\leq A|f(y) - R(y)| + C|R(y) - R(x)|^{m+1} \\ &\quad \times |h^{(m+1)}((1-\theta)R(x) + \theta R(y))| \\ &\leq C(|f(y) - P_Q f(y)| + t^a G_a f(x) \\ &\quad + |R(y) - R(x)|^{m+1}/f(x)^m). \end{aligned}$$

Set now $T = (f(x)/G_a f(x))^{1/a}$ and suppose $T \leq 1$; since

$$(R(y) - R(x))^{m+1} = \sum_{j=m}^{m(m+1)} \sum_{|\gamma|=j} c_\gamma (y-x)^\gamma,$$

where c_γ equals the sum of all terms $c_{\gamma_1}(t) \cdots c_{\gamma_{m+1}}(t)$ with $\gamma_1 + \cdots + \gamma_{m+1} = \gamma$, then (7) and (4) imply for $0 < t \leq T$ that

$$\begin{aligned} |c_{\gamma_i}(t)| &\leq CT^{-|\gamma_i|} f_{Q_{x,T}} + CT^{a-|\gamma_i|} G_a f(x) \\ &\leq CT^{-|\gamma_i|} (f(x) + T^a G_a f(x)) \leq CT^{-|\gamma_i|} f(x), \end{aligned}$$

if $|\gamma_i| < a$, or

$$\begin{aligned} |c_{\gamma_i}(t)| &\leq CT^{-|\gamma_i|} f(x) + C \log(T/t) G_a f(x) \\ &\leq CT^{-|\gamma_i|} \log(T/t) f(x), \end{aligned}$$

if $|\gamma_i| = a$. In any case,

$$|R(y) - R(x)|^{m+1} \leq C f(x)^{m+1} (\log eT/t)^{m+1} \sum_{m+1}^{m(m+1)} (t/T)^j,$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} E^{m(m+1)} h(f)(x, t) \\ \leq C(Ef(x, t) + t^a G_a f(x) + f(x)(\log eT/t)^{m+1} \sum_{m+1}^{m(m+1)} (t/T)^j), \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$(16) \quad \sup_{t \leq T} t^{-a} E^{m(m+1)} h(f)(x, t) \leq C(G_a f(x) + f(x)T^{-a}) \leq C G_a f(x).$$

If $T \leq t \leq 1$, then $E^{m(m+1)} h(f)(x, t) \leq C f_Q \leq C f(x)$, by (4) and Lemma 3, and we have

$$(17) \quad \sup_{T \leq t \leq 1} t^{-a} E^{m(m+1)} h(f)(x, t) \leq CT^{-a} f(x) \leq C G_a f(x).$$

In the case $T > 1$, then $f(x) > G_a f(x)$ and we estimate the coefficients $c_{\gamma_i}(t)$ as $|c_{\gamma_i}(t)| \leq C(f(x) + \log(e/t) G_a f(x)) \leq C \log(e/t) f(x)$, and replace (16) by

$$\begin{aligned} (18) \quad \sup_{t \leq 1} t^{-a} E^{m(m+1)} h(f)(x, t) &\leq C(G_a f(x) + f(x)) \sum_{m+1}^{m(m+1)} \sup_{t \leq 1} t^{j-a} \log(e/t) \\ &\leq C f(x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (16), (17), and (18) yield for a.e. x

$$(19) \quad G_a h(f)(x, 1) \leq C(G_a f(x) + f(x))$$

and, since $h(f) \leq Af$, we conclude that $\|h(f)\|_{a,p} \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}$.

To finish the proof of Theorem 6 fix a, b, p and write U instead of $U_{a,p}^b$. As in [2 or 7], if h is a C^∞ function with $h(t) = 0$ if $t < 0$, $h(t) = 1$ if $t > 1$, define for any integer j $h_j(t) = 2^j h(2^{2-j}t - 1)$ and $f_j = h_j(f)$. By Lemma 4 $f_j \in C_a^p$, and since $f_j(x) = 2^j$ if $f(x) > 2^j$, (15) gives

$$\int_0^\infty s^{p-1} U(\{f > s\}) ds \leq C \sum_{-\infty}^\infty 2^{jp} U(\{f_j \geq 2^j\}) \leq C \sum_{-\infty}^\infty (\|f_j\|_{a,p})^p.$$

Now, the h'_j have disjoint support and are uniformly bounded; therefore,

$$(20) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{-\infty}^\infty (f_j(x))^p &= \sum_{-\infty}^\infty \left(\int_0^{f(x)} h'_j(s) ds \right)^p \\ &\leq f(x)^{p-1} \sum_{-\infty}^\infty \int_0^{f(x)} |h'_j(s)| ds \leq C f(x)^p, \end{aligned}$$

and $\sum \|f_j\|_p^p \leq C\|f\|_p^p$. Fix $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ and denote $Q_{x,t}$ as Q ; if $t \leq 1$, (4) and Lemma 3 give $f(x) \leq |f(x) - P_Q f(x)| + C f_Q \leq C t^a G_a f(x) + C' f(y)$ for any $y \in Q$; thus,

$$f(y) \geq (f(x) - C t^a G_a f(x))/C' > f(x)/2C'$$

if $t \leq T = (\varepsilon f(x)/G_a f(x))^{1/a}$ with ε small enough. Now $C' \sim 2^K$ for some K independent of f or x , and, when $f(x) > 2^{j+K+1}$, $f(y) > 2^j$ on Q and $f_j(y) = 2^j$. Hence, using again the centered version of E ,

$$E f_j(x, t) \leq \int_Q |f_j(y) - f_j(x)| dy = 0.$$

If $t \geq \min(1, T)$, then $E f_j(x, t) \leq C(f_j)_Q \leq C 2^j = C f_j(x)$ and therefore

$$G_a f_j(x, 1) \leq \sup_{t > \min(1, T)} t^{-a} E f_j(x, t) \leq C(f_j(x) + T^{-a} f_j(x)),$$

and (20) gives ($\sim$ means the index set equals the preceding one)

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{f(x) > 2^{j+K+1}} G_a f_j(x, 1)^p &\leq C \sum_{\sim} (f_j(x)^p + T^{-ap} f_j(x)^p) \\ &\leq C(f(x)^p + G_a f(x)^p). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose next $f(x) < 2^{j-3}$; if $t \leq 1$ and we set as before $R(y) = f(x) + P_Q f(x) - c_0(t)$,

$$\begin{aligned} |R(y)| &\leq f(x) + C \sum_{0 < |\gamma| \leq m} f_Q(|y-x|/t)^{|\gamma|} \leq f(x) \left(1 + C \sum_{\sim} (|y-x|/t)^{|\gamma|} \right) \\ &\leq 2f(x) \end{aligned}$$

if $|x - y| \leq \varepsilon t$ with ε small enough. Hence $h_j(R(y)) = 0$ and, setting $S = \{y \in Q: f(y) > 2^{j-2}\}$, (4) implies

$$\begin{aligned} Ef_j(x, \varepsilon t) &\leq C \int_Q f_j(y) dy = Ct^{-n} \int_S h_j(f(y)) dy \\ &\leq Ct^{-n} \int_S |h_j(f(y)) - h_j(R(y))| dy \\ &\leq C \left(\int_Q |f - R|^s \right)^{1/s} (t^{-n}|S|)^{1-1/s} \\ &\leq C(E_s f(x, t) + t^a G_a f(x))(2^{-j} f(x))^{1-1/s}, \end{aligned}$$

for, by Lemma 3, $|S| \leq C2^{-j} \int_Q f dz \leq C2^{-j} t^n f(x)$. Thus,

$$G_a f_j(x, 1) \leq C \left(\sup_t t^{-a} E_s f(x, t) + G_a f(x) \right) (2^{-j} f(x))^{1-1/s},$$

and since $\sum_{f(x) < 2^{j-3}} 2^{-jp(1-1/s)} \leq C f(x)^{-p(1-1/s)}$,

$$(22) \quad \sum_{f(x) < 2^{j-3}} G_a f_j(x, 1)^p \leq C \left(\sup_t t^{-a} E_s f(x, t) \right)^p.$$

By (19), we estimate the remaining $K + 4$ f_j as $G_a f_j(x, 1) \leq C(G_a f(x) + f(x))$, which with (21) and (22) gives

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_a f_j(x, 1)^p \leq C \left(\left(\sup_t t^{-a} E_s f(x, t) \right)^p + f(x)^p \right);$$

taking now (12) and (20) into account, we obtain

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \|G_a f_j(\cdot, 1)\|_p^p \leq C(\|G_a f\|_p^p + \|f\|_p^p) \leq C\|f\|_{a,p}^p$$

and the proof of Theorem 6 is finished.

6. Further remarks. We discuss here the imbeddings of the Triebel-Lizorkin spaces in F_a^p . These spaces are usually defined as follows [17]: let ψ be a function in Schwartz's class $\mathcal{S}$ such that $\Psi = \hat{\psi} \geq 0$ and $\text{supp } \Psi \subset \{z: 1/2 \leq |z| \leq 2\}$, and set $\psi_t(z) = t^{-n}\psi(z/t)$; then $F_a^{p,q}$, $a > 0$, $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ is the space of those L^p functions such that

$$D_{a,p} f(x) = \left(\int_0^\infty (t^{-a} |f * \psi_t(x)|)^q dt/t \right)^{1/q}$$

is in L^p . With the norm $\|f\|_{a,p,q} = \|f\|_p + \|D_{a,q} f\|_p$, $F_a^{p,q}$ becomes a Banach space, and as mentioned before, if $1 < p < \infty$, $F_a^{p,2} = L_a^p$, and $F_a^{1,2} = J_a(h^1)$.

The extension of Theorems 1, 2 and 3 to the $F_a^{p,q}$ is a consequence of

PROPOSITION 3. *If $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $F_a^{p,q}$ is continuously imbedded in F_a^p .*

PROOF. If $0 < a < 1$, $f \in F_a^{p,q}$ iff

$$S_{a,q} f(x) = \left(\int_0^\infty \left(t^{-a} \int_{|y| \leq 1} |f(x + ty) - f(x)| dy \right)^q dt/t \right)^{1/q}$$

is in L^p and $\|D_{a,q}f\|_p \sim \|S_{a,q}f\|_p$ [17, p. 108]. But then $G_a f(x) \leq C S_{a,q} f(x)$ (see §3) and therefore, $\|f\|_{a,p} \leq C \|f\|_{a,p,q}$. The general case is reduced to this one by Theorem 4 and the fact [17, p. 58] that the Bessel operator J_b is an isomorphism between $F_a^{p,q}$ and $F_{a+b}^{p,q}$ (in fact it can be shown that $f \in F_a^{p,q}$, $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $a > 0$ iff

$$G_{a,q}f(x) = \left(\int_0^\infty (t^{-a} E f(x, t))^q dt/t \right)^{1/q}$$

is in L^p , and $\|f\|_{a,p,q} \sim \|f\|_p + \|G_{a,q}f\|_p$).

As a consequence, Theorems 1, 2, and 3 also hold for certain Besov spaces (see [16, 17] for their definition): indeed, if $1 \leq r \leq p$, $B_a^{p,r}$ is continuously imbedded in $F_a^{p,r}$ [17, p. 47]. If $r > p$, the methods used here do not apply to $B_a^{p,r}$, although the embeddings $B_a^{p,r} \subset L_{a-\varepsilon}^p$ yield convergence of the Poisson integral of $f \in B_a^{p,r}$ inside any region $D_{a-\varepsilon,p}$, $\varepsilon > 0$; since $C_a^p \subset L_{a-\varepsilon}^p$, the same is true of C_a^p .

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