

## A LIMITED-RANGE CALDERÓN-ZYGMUND THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. For a limited range of indices  $p$ , we obtain  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  boundedness for singular integral operators whose kernels satisfy a condition weaker than the typical Hörmander smoothness estimate. These operators are assumed to be bounded (or weakly bounded) on  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some index  $s$ . Our estimates are obtained via interpolation from the appropriate weak-type estimates. We provide two proofs of this result. One proof is based on the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition, while the other uses ideas of Nazarov, Treil, and Volberg.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The classical theory of singular integral operators was introduced by Calderón and Zygmund in [3] and says that for certain kernels defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ , the weak-type  $(1, 1)$  bound holds for the associated singular integral operator, assuming that an  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  bound is known for some  $1 < s \leq \infty$ . Hörmander extended this theory in [9] to more general kernels  $K$  satisfying the smoothness condition

$$[K]_H := \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \int_{|x| \geq 2|y|} |K(x-y) - K(x)| dx < \infty.$$

The Hörmander condition is an  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ -type smoothness condition and has some variants. For example, Watson introduced the following  $L^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  versions in [18]: for  $1 \leq r \leq \infty$ , we say a kernel  $K$  is in the class  $H^r$  if

$$[K]_{H^r} := \sup_{R>0} \sup_{\substack{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ |y| \leq R}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (2^m R)^{\frac{n}{r'}} \left[ \int_{\substack{|x| \geq 2^m R \\ |x| < 2^{m+1} R}} |K(x-y) - K(x)|^r dx \right]^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty,$$

where  $r'$  is the Hölder conjugate of  $r$ . Observe that Watson's condition coincides with Hörmander's condition when  $r = 1$ , and for  $r_1, r_2 \in [1, \infty]$  with  $r_1 \leq r_2$ ,

$$H^{r_2} \subseteq H^{r_1} \subseteq H^1 = H.$$

In this paper, we focus on a different set of  $L^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ -adapted conditions defined as follows.

**Definition 1.** Let  $1 \leq r \leq \infty$ . A kernel  $K$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$  is in the class  $H_r$  if

$$[K]_{H_r} := \sup_{R>0} \left[ \frac{1}{v_n R^n} \int_{|y| \leq R} \left( \int_{|x| \geq 2R} |K(x-y) - K(x)| dx \right)^r dy \right]^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty,$$

where  $v_n$  is the volume of the unit ball  $B(0, 1)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

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Notice that this condition coincides with the Hörmander condition when  $r = \infty$ . Moreover, for  $r_1, r_2 \in [1, \infty]$  with  $r_1 \leq r_2$ ,

$$H = H_\infty \subseteq H_{r_2} \subseteq H_{r_1},$$

meaning the  $H_r$  conditions are weaker than Hörmander's smoothness condition.

We prove boundedness results for the associated singular integral operators.

**Definition 2.** Let  $K \in H_r$  for some  $1 \leq r \leq \infty$  and suppose  $K$  satisfies the size estimate  $|K(x)| \leq \frac{A}{|x|^n}$  for all  $x \neq 0$ . We associate  $K$  with a linear operator  $T$  given by

$$Tf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} K(x-y)f(y) dy$$

for smooth functions  $f$  and  $x \notin \text{supp} f$ .

Notice that this definition also makes sense if  $f$  is an integrable, compactly supported function and  $x \notin \text{supp} f$ . Moreover, there is no unique way to define  $Tf$  in terms of  $K$  for general functions  $f$  (see the relevant discussions in [5, 6, 14]).

If  $K \in H = H_\infty$ , Hörmander proved that given  $1 < s \leq \infty$ ,  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  bounds for  $T$  imply the weak-type  $(1, 1)$  bound, and hence  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  bounds for all  $1 < p < \infty$ . In this note, we prove the following variant of this result, where weak-type  $(1, 1)$  is replaced by weak-type  $(q, q)$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $1 \leq q < \infty$ ,  $K \in H_{q'}$ , and  $|K(x)| \leq \frac{A}{|x|^n}$  for all  $x \neq 0$ . If the associated singular integral operator  $T$  is bounded on  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $s \in (q, \infty]$  with bound  $B$ , then  $T$  maps  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  to  $L^{q,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with bound at most a constant multiple of  $B + [K]_{H_{q'}}$ . That is,

$$\|Tf\|_{L^{q,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)} := \sup_{\alpha > 0} \alpha |\{ |Tf| > \alpha \}|^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq C_{n,s,q} (B + [K]_{H_{q'}}) \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

for all  $f \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

We give two proofs of Theorem 1. The first proof uses the  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  version of the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition and is an adaptation of the classical proof given in [3]. The second proof is motivated by Nazarov, Treil, and Volberg's proof for the weak-type  $(1, 1)$  inequality in the nonhomogeneous setting, given in [11]. Adaptations of the proof in the nonhomogeneous setting are needed in our setting; some modifications include ideas that can be found in [14]. See [15–17] for other applications of the Nazarov, Treil, and Volberg technique to multilinear and weighted settings. Refer to [8, 10, 12] for related results regarding multilinear and weighted Calderón-Zygmund theory.

By interpolation we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.** Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1, the operator  $T$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $p$  in the interval  $(\min(s', q), \max(q', s))$ .

**Remark 1.** The constant  $A$  does not appear in the conclusion of Theorem 1. The estimate  $|K(x)| \leq \frac{A}{|x|^n}$  is only needed to ensure that the operator  $T$  is well-defined for a dense class of functions.

If  $q > 1$  and  $s < \infty$ , then the interval  $(\min(s', q), \max(q', s))$  is properly contained in  $(1, \infty)$ . Hence in this case, we obtain  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  estimates for a limited-range of values of  $p$ . Prior to this work, other “limited-range” versions of the Calderón-Zygmund theorem appeared in Baernstein and Sawyer [1], Carbery [4], Seeger [13], and Grafakos, Honzík, Ryabogin [7].

## 2. CALDERÓN-ZYGMUND DECOMPOSITION METHOD

The first proof of Theorem 1 relies on the  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  version of the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition. See [5, 6, 14] for details on the decomposition.

*Proof.* Fix  $f \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\alpha > 0$ . We will show that

$$|\{|Tf| > \alpha\}| \leq C_{n,s,q}(B + [K]_{Hq'})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

Apply the  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ -form of the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition to  $f$  at height  $\gamma\alpha$  (the constant  $\gamma > 0$  will be chosen later), to write  $f = g + b = g + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j$ , where

- (1)  $\|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 2^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma\alpha$  and  $\|g\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ ,
- (2) the  $b_j$  are supported on pairwise disjoint cubes  $Q_j$  satisfying  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \leq (\gamma\alpha)^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q$ ,
- (3)  $\|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \leq 2^{n+q} (\gamma\alpha)^q |Q_j|$ ,
- (4)  $\int_{Q_j} b_j(x) dx = 0$ , and
- (5)  $\|b\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 2^{\frac{n+q}{q}} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$  and  $\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 2(\gamma\alpha)^{1-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q$ .

Now,

$$|\{|Tf| > \alpha\}| \leq \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| + \left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right|.$$

Assume first that  $s < \infty$ . Choose  $\gamma = (B + [K]_{Hq'})^{-1}$ . Using Chebyshev's inequality, the bound of  $T$  on  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , property (1), and trivial estimates, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq 2^s \alpha^{-s} \|Tg\|_{L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)}^s \\ &\leq (2B)^s \alpha^{-s} \|g\|_{L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)}^s \\ &\leq 2^{s-n+\frac{ns}{q}} B^s \alpha^{-s} (\gamma\alpha)^{s-q} \|g\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \\ &\leq 2^{s-n+\frac{ns}{q}} (B + [K]_{Hq'})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q. \end{aligned}$$

We next control the second term. Let  $c_j$  denote the center of  $Q_j$ , let  $Q_j^* := Q(c_j, 2\sqrt{n}l(Q_j))$  be the cube centered at  $c_j$  and having side length  $2\sqrt{n}$  times the side length of  $Q_j$ , and set  $\Omega^* := \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} Q_j^*$ . Then

$$\left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| \leq |\Omega^*| + \left| \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^* : |Tb(x)| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right|.$$

Notice that since  $|Q_j^*| = (2\sqrt{n})^n |Q_j|$  and by property (2), we have

$$|\Omega^*| \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j^*| = (2\sqrt{n})^n \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \leq (2\sqrt{n})^n (B + [K]_{Hq'})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

It remains to control the last term. Use Chebyshev's inequality, property (4), Fubini's theorem, Hölder's inequality, property (3), and property (2) to estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \left\{ \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^* : |Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| \leq 2\alpha^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |Tb(x)| dx \\
& \leq 2\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |Tb_j(x)| dx \\
& \leq 2\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{Q_j} \left[ \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right] |b_j(y)| dy \\
& \leq 2\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |K(x-\cdot) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \|b_j\|_{L^q} \\
& \leq 2\alpha^{-1} \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |K(x-\cdot) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j|^{\frac{1}{q'}} \|b_j\|_{L^q} \\
& \leq 2^{\frac{n}{q}+2} \gamma \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |K(x-\cdot) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \\
& \leq 2^{\frac{n}{q}+2} \gamma^{1-q} \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |K(x-\cdot) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)}.
\end{aligned}$$

For each  $j$ , setting  $R_j = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}l(Q_j)$ , we have

$$Q_j \subseteq B(c_j, R_j) \subseteq B(c_j, 2R_j) \subseteq Q_j^*,$$

where  $B(x, r)$  denotes the ball centered at  $x$  and with radius  $r$ . Then the factor involving the supremum is less than or equal to

$$\sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left[ \int_{B(c_j, R_j)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B(c_j, 2R_j)} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right)^{q'} \frac{dy}{|Q_j|} \right]^{\frac{1}{q'}},$$

which is bounded by  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}\right)^n v_n [K]_{H_{q'}}$  by changing variables  $x' = x - c_j$ ,  $y' = y - c_j$  and by replacing the supremum over  $R_j$  by the supremum over all  $R > 0$ .

Putting all of the estimates together, we get

$$|\{|Tf| > \alpha\}| \leq \left( 2^{s-n+\frac{ns}{q}} + (2\sqrt{n})^n + 2^{\frac{n}{q}+2-n} n^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) (B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

When  $s = \infty$ , set  $\gamma = 2^{-\frac{n}{q}}(4([K]_{H_{q'}} + B))^{-1}$ . Then

$$\|Tg\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq B \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 2^{\frac{n}{q}} B \gamma \alpha \leq \frac{\alpha}{4},$$

so

$$\left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| = 0.$$

The part of the argument involving  $\{|Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2}\}$  is the same as in the case  $s < \infty$ .  $\square$

## 3. METHOD OF NAZAROV, TREIL, AND VOLBERG

We provide a second proof of Theorem 1. This proof is motivated by the argument given by Nazarov, Treil, and Volberg in [11]. See also [15–17] for other applications of this technique.

*Proof.* Fix  $f \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\alpha > 0$ . We will show that

$$|\{|Tf| > \alpha\}| \leq C_{n,s,q}(B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

By density, we may assume  $f$  is a nonnegative continuous function with compact support. Set

$$\Omega := \{M(f^q) > (\gamma\alpha)^q\},$$

where  $\gamma > 0$  is to be chosen later and where  $M$  denotes the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator. Apply a Whitney decomposition to write

$$\Omega = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} Q_j,$$

a disjoint union of dyadic cubes where

$$2\text{diam}(Q_j) \leq d(Q_j, \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega) \leq 8\text{diam}(Q_j).$$

Put

$$g := f\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega}, \quad b := f\mathbb{1}_{\Omega}, \quad \text{and} \quad b_j := f\mathbb{1}_{Q_j}.$$

Then

$$f = g + b = g + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j,$$

where we claim that

- (1)  $\|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \gamma\alpha$  and  $\|g\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ ,
- (2) the  $b_j$  are supported on pairwise disjoint cubes  $Q_j$  satisfying

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \leq 3^n (\gamma\alpha)^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q,$$

- (3)  $\|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \leq (17\sqrt{n})^n (\gamma\alpha)^q |Q_j|$ , and

- (4)  $\|b\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$  and  $\|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} 3^n (\gamma\alpha)^{1-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q$ .

Indeed, since for any  $x \notin \Omega$ , we have

$$|g(x)|^q = |f(x)|^q \leq M(f^q)(x) \leq (\gamma\alpha)^q,$$

it follows that  $\|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \gamma\alpha$ . Since  $g$  is a restriction of  $f$ , we have  $\|g\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ , and so (1) holds. Using the weak-type (1, 1) bound for  $M$  with  $\|M\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq 3^n$ , we obtain property (2) as follows

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| = |\Omega| \leq 3^n (\gamma\alpha)^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

Addressing (3) and (4), let  $Q_j^* := Q(c_j, 17\sqrt{n}l(Q_j))$  be the cube with the same center as  $Q_j$  but side length  $17\sqrt{n}$  times as large. Then  $Q_j^* \cap (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega) \neq \emptyset$ , so there is a point  $x \in Q_j^*$  such

that  $M(f^q)(x) \leq (\gamma\alpha)^q$ . In particular,  $\int_{Q_j^*} |f(y)|^q dy \leq (\gamma\alpha)^q |Q_j^*|$ . Since  $|Q_j^*| = (17\sqrt{n})^n |Q_j|$ , we have

$$\|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q = \int_{Q_j} |f(y)|^q dy \leq \int_{Q_j^*} |f(y)|^q dy \leq (\gamma\alpha)^q |Q_j^*| = (17\sqrt{n})^n (\gamma\alpha)^q |Q_j|.$$

This proves (3). We use Hölder's inequality, property (3), and property and (2) to justify property (4)

$$\begin{aligned} \|b\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \|b_j\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} |Q_j|^{\frac{1}{q'}} \\ &\leq (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} (\gamma\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \\ &\leq (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} 3^n (\gamma\alpha)^{1-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q. \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\left| \left\{ |Tf| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| \leq \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| + \left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right|.$$

Assume first that  $s < \infty$ . Choose  $\gamma = (B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^{-1}$ . Use Chebyshev's inequality, the bound of  $T$  on  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , and property (1) to see

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq 2^s \alpha^{-s} \|Tg\|_{L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)}^s \\ &\leq (2B)^s \alpha^{-s} \|g\|_{L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)}^s \\ &\leq (2B)^s (\gamma\alpha)^{s-q} \alpha^{-s} \|g\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \\ &\leq 2^s (B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q. \end{aligned}$$

We will now control the second term. Let  $E_j$  be a concentric dilate of  $Q_j$ ; precisely,

$$E_j := Q(c_j, r_j),$$

where  $c_j$  is the center of  $Q_j$  and  $r_j > 0$  is chosen so that  $|E_j| = \frac{1}{(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha} \int_{Q_j} b_j(x) dx$ . Note that such  $E_j$  exist since the function  $r \mapsto |Q(x, r)|$  is continuous for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Applying Hölder's inequality and property (3), we have

$$|E_j| = \frac{1}{(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha} \int_{Q_j} b_j(x) dx \leq \frac{1}{(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha} |Q_j|^{\frac{1}{q'}} \|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq |Q_j|.$$

Since  $E_j$  is a cube with the same center as  $Q_j$  and since  $|E_j| \leq |Q_j|$ , the containment  $E_j \subseteq Q_j$  holds. In particular, the  $E_j$  are pairwise disjoint. Set

$$E := \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j.$$

Then

$$\left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\} \right| \leq \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I} &= |\Omega|, \\ \text{II} &= \left| \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega : \left| T \left( b - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_E \right) (x) \right| > \frac{\alpha}{4} \right\} \right|, \text{ and} \\ \text{III} &= \left| \left\{ (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha |T(\mathbb{1}_E)| > \frac{\alpha}{4} \right\} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

The control of I follows from property (2),

$$|\Omega| = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \leq 3^n (B + [K]_{H_{q'}}) \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

For II, use Chebyshev's inequality, the fact that  $\int_{Q_j} b_j(y) - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j}(y) dy = 0$ , Fubini's theorem, and Hölder's inequality to estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II} &\leq 4\alpha^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} \left| T \left( b - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_E \right) (x) \right| dx \\ &\leq 4\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} \left| T \left( b_j - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j} \right) (x) \right| dx \\ &\leq 4\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} \int_{Q_j} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| \left| b_j(y) - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j}(y) \right| dy dx \\ &= 4\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{Q_j} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right) \left| b_j(y) - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j}(y) \right| dy \\ &\leq 4\alpha^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \left\| b_j - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j} \right\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \\ &\leq 4\alpha^{-1} \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j|^{\frac{1}{q'}} \left\| b_j - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j} \right\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the triangle inequality, property (3), and the fact that  $|E_j| \leq |Q_j|$ , we have

$$\left\| b_j - (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha \mathbb{1}_{E_j} \right\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \|b_j\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} + (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha |E_j|^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq 2(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \alpha |Q_j|^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

Using the above estimate and property (2), we control

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II} &\leq 8(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \gamma \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |Q_j| \\ &\leq 8(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} 3^n \gamma^{1-q} \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right\|_{L^{q'}\left(Q_j, \frac{dy}{|Q_j|}\right)}. \end{aligned}$$

For each  $j$ , setting  $R_j = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} l(Q_j)$ , we have

$$Q_j \subseteq B(c_j, R_j) \subseteq B(c_j, 2R_j) \subseteq \Omega.$$

Then the supremum is bounded by

$$\sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left[ \int_{B(c_j, R_j)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B(c_j, 2R_j)} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| dx \right)^{q'} \frac{dy}{|Q_j|} \right]^{\frac{1}{q'}},$$

which is bounded by  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}\right)^n v_n [K]_{H_{q'}}$  by changing variables  $x' = x - c_j$ ,  $y' = y - c_j$  and by replacing the supremum over  $R_j$  by the supremum over all  $R > 0$ . Therefore

$$\text{II} \leq 8(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \left(\frac{3\sqrt{n}}{2}\right)^n v_n (B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

To control III, use Chebyshev's inequality, the bound of  $T$  on  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , the fact that  $|E| \leq |\Omega|$ , and property (2) to estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} &\leq 4^s (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{ns}{q}} \gamma^s \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |T(\mathbb{1}_E)(x)|^s dx \\ &\leq 4^s (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{ns}{q}} \gamma^s B^s |E| \\ &\leq 4^s (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{ns}{q}} |\Omega| \\ &\leq 4^s (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{ns}{q}} 3^n (B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q \alpha^{-q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q. \end{aligned}$$

Putting the estimates together, we get

$$|\{|Tf| > \alpha\}| \leq \left(2^s + 3^n + 8(17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{n}{q}} \left(\frac{3\sqrt{n}}{2}\right)^n v_n + 4^s (17\sqrt{n})^{\frac{ns}{q}} 3^n\right) \frac{(B + [K]_{H_{q'}})^q}{\alpha^q} \|f\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q.$$

Since we assumed that  $f$  was nonnegative, we must double the constant above to prove the statement for general  $f \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

When  $s = \infty$ , set  $\gamma = (4(B + [K]_{H_{q'}}))^{-1}$ . Then

$$\|Tg\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq B \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq B\gamma\alpha \leq \frac{\alpha}{4},$$

so  $|\{|Tg| > \frac{\alpha}{2}\}| = 0$ . The part of the argument involving the set  $\{|Tb| > \frac{\alpha}{2}\}$  is the same as in the case  $s < \infty$ .  $\square$



## 4. CONCLUSION

We end with some remarks and an open question.

**Remark 3.** The conclusions of Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 also follow under the weaker hypothesis that  $T$  is bounded from  $L^{s,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  to  $L^{s,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Here  $L^{s,r}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is the usual Lorentz space.

**Remark 4.** As in the case  $q = 1$ , there are natural vector-valued extensions of Theorem 1 and Corollary 1, in the spirit of [2].

**Remark 5.** Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 are also valid if the original kernel is not of convolution type. In this setting, we say a kernel  $K$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{(x, y) : x = y\}$  is in  $H_r$  if

$$\sup_{R>0} \left[ \frac{1}{v_n R^n} \int_{|y-y'|\leq R} \left( \int_{|x-y|\geq 2R} |K(x, y) - K(x, y')| dx \right)^r dy \right]^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty,$$

and

$$\sup_{R>0} \left[ \frac{1}{v_n R^n} \int_{|x-x'|\leq R} \left( \int_{|x-y|\geq 2R} |K(x, y) - K(x', y)| dx \right)^r dy \right]^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty,$$

where  $v_n$  is the volume of the unit ball  $B(0, 1)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

As stated in Remark 2 in the introduction, if  $q > 1$  and  $s < \infty$ , then  $T$  satisfies strong  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  estimates for  $p \in (\min(s', q), \max(q', s))$ , and in this case, the interval  $(\min(s', q), \max(q', s))$  is properly contained in  $(1, \infty)$ .

Let  $q > 1$  and  $s < \infty$ . As of this writing, we are unable to establish whether the interval  $(\min(s', q), \max(q', s))$  is the largest interval  $(a, b)$  for which an operator  $T$  with kernel in  $H_{q'}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for all  $p \in (a, b)$ . This certainly relates to the existence of examples of kernels in  $H_{q_1}$  but not in  $H_{q_2}$  for  $q_1 < q_2$ .

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