



Variable  $L^{p(\cdot)}$   
Spaces

David V.  
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# Variable Lebesgue Spaces

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Trinity College

Summer School and Workshop  
Harmonic Analysis and Related Topics  
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# Lecture 3

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## Rubio de Francia Extrapolation on Variable Lebesgue Spaces



# Outline

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# Operators on $L^{p(\cdot)}$

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**Our goal:** prove a variety of operators—singular integrals, Riesz potentials, square functions—are bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}$ .

**Our philosophy:** follow Calderón-Zygmund program and use our control of the maximal operator.

**Our approach:** use theory of weights and Rubio de Francia extrapolation.



# Weighted norm inequalities

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A weight:  $w \in L^1_{\text{loc}}$ ,  $w \geq 0$

A weighted norm inequality for an operator  $T$ :

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^p w(x) dx \leq C(w, n, T) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^p w(x) dx,$$

where  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .

Equivalently,  $\|Tf\|_{L^p(w)} \leq C\|f\|_{L^p(w)}$ .



# $A_p$ weights

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For  $1 < p < \infty$ ,  $w \in A_p$  if

$$[w]_{A_p} = \sup_Q \int_Q w(x) dx \left( \int_Q w(x)^{1-p'} dx \right)^{p-1} < \infty.$$

Equivalently,

$$\sup_Q |Q|^{-1} \|w\chi_Q\|_p \|w\chi_Q\|_{p'} < \infty.$$



# $A_p$ weights (cont.)

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For  $p = 1$ ,  $w \in A_1$  if  $Mw(x) \leq Cw(x)$  a.e.

$$[w]_{A_1} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_x \frac{Mw(x)}{w(x)} < \infty.$$

For all  $p > 1$ ,  $A_1 \subset A_p$ .

$w \in A_p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , iff  $\|Mf\|_{L^p(w)} \leq C\|f\|_{L^p(w)}$



# Rubio de Francia extrapolation

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## Theorem

*Given an operator  $T$ , suppose that for some  $p_0$ ,  $1 \leq p_0 < \infty$ , and every  $w \in A_{p_0}$ ,*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx \leq C(n, T) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx.$$

*Then for every  $p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , and every  $w \in A_p$ ,*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^p w(x) dx \leq C(n, T) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^p w(x) dx.$$





# A pithy summary

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*There are no  $L^p$  spaces,  
only weighted  $L^2$ .*

— A. Cordoba



# Generalized extrapolation theory

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Work over the past decade has shown that Rubio de Francia extrapolation can be generalized in many directions.

*There are no Banach function spaces,  
only weighted  $L^2$ .*



# Convolution

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Given locally integrable functions  $f, g$ , define

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(y)g(x - y) dy.$$



# Approximate identities

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Given  $\phi \in L^1$ ,  $\int \phi(x) dx = 1$ , and  $t > 0$ , define  $\phi_t(x) = t^{-n}\phi(x/t)$ .

The family of operators  $\phi_t * f$  is called an approximate identity.

$\{\phi_t\}$  is a potential-type approximate identity if

$$\Phi(x) = \sup_{|y| \geq |x|} |\phi(y)| \in L^1.$$



# Classical result

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Given an approximate identity  $\{\phi_t\}$ :

- For  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $\|\phi_t * f - f\|_p \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ .
- If  $\phi_t$  is a potential-type approximate identity, for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ,  $\phi_t * f \rightarrow f$  pointwise a.e.



# Pointwise convergence on $L^{p(\cdot)}$

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## Theorem

*If  $\{\phi_t\}$  is an approximate identity, then given  $p(\cdot)$ , for all  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}$ ,  $\phi_t * f \rightarrow f$  pointwise a.e.*

Proof:

- $f = f_1 + f_2$ ,  $f_1 \in L^{p^-}$ ,  $f_2 \in L^{p^+}$
- $\phi_t * f = \phi_t * f_1 + \phi_t * f_2$
- Apply classical result.



# Norm convergence on $L^{p(\cdot)}$

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## Theorem

*Given  $p(\cdot)$ , suppose  $M$  is bounded on  $L^{p'(\cdot)}$ . Then given any potential-type approximate identity  $\{\phi_t\}$ ,*

- $\sup_{t>0} \|\phi_t * f\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}$
- $\|\phi_t * f - f\|_{p(\cdot)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .



# The proof : set up

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WLOG: replace  $\phi$  by  $\Phi$  since  $|\phi_t * f| \leq \Phi_t * |f|$ .

Claim:  $\sup_{t>0} |\Phi_t * f(x)| \leq CMf(x)$  a.e.

- Approximate  $\Phi$  by  $\sum_k a_k \chi_{B_k}(x)$ , where  $B_k$  are nested balls centered at origin.
- Apply definition of convolution and monotone convergence theorem





# The proof: duality

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$$\begin{aligned}\|\Phi_t * f\|_{p(\cdot)} &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\Phi_t * f)(x)g(x) dx & \|g\|_{p'(\cdot)} = 1 \\ &= C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x)(\Phi_t * g)(x) dx \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x)Mg(x) dx \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)} \|Mg\|_{p'(\cdot)} \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}\end{aligned}$$



# Extrapolation in $L^{p(\cdot)}$

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## Theorem

*Given an operator  $T$ , suppose that for some  $p_0$ ,  $1 \leq p_0 < \infty$ , and all  $w \in A_1$ ,*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx \leq C([w]_{A_1}) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx.$$

*Then given  $p(\cdot)$  such that  $p_0 \leq p_- \leq p_+ < \infty$  and  $M$  is bounded on  $L^{(p(\cdot)/p_0)'}$ ,*

$$\|Tf\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$



# Proof: iteration algorithm

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Define operator

$$\mathcal{R}h = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^k h}{2^k \|M\|_{L^{(p(\cdot))/p_0}'}^k}.$$

Properties:

- If  $h$  non-negative,  $h \leq \mathcal{R}h$ .
- $\|\mathcal{R}h\|_{L^{(p(\cdot))/p_0}' } \leq 2\|h\|_{L^{(p(\cdot))/p_0}' }.$
- $\mathcal{R}h \in A_1$  and  $[\mathcal{R}h]_{A_1} \leq 2\|M\|_{L^{(p(\cdot))/p_0}' }.$



# Proof: duality

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$$\begin{aligned}\|Tf\|_{p(\cdot)}^{p_0} &= \| |Tf|^{p_0} \|_{p(\cdot)/p_0} \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^{p_0} g(x) dx & \|g\|_{(p(\cdot)/p_0)'} = 1 \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^{p_0} \mathcal{R}g(x) dx \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p_0} \mathcal{R}g(x) dx \\ &\leq C \| |f|^{p_0} \|_{p(\cdot)/p_0} \| \mathcal{R}g \|_{(p(\cdot)/p_0)'} \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}^{p_0}.\end{aligned}$$



# Generalizations

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- Arbitrary domains  $\Omega$

- Weak type inequalities:

$$\|\lambda \chi_{\{x: |Tf(x)| > \lambda\}}\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}$$

- Vector-valued inequalities:  $1 < q < \infty$ ,

$$\| \| Tf_i(\cdot) \|_{\ell^q} \|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \| \| f_i(\cdot) \|_{\ell^q} \|_{p(\cdot)}$$

- Coifman-Fefferman type inequalities:

$$\| Tf \|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \| Sf \|_{p(\cdot)}$$

- Off-diagonal estimates:

$$\| Tf \|_{q(\cdot)} \leq C \| f \|_{p(\cdot)}, \quad p(x)^{-1} - q(x)^{-1} = \alpha/n.$$



# Singular integrals

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Let  $K \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$  be such that:

- $\widehat{K} \in L^\infty$
- $|K(x)| \leq C|x|^{-n}, x \neq 0$
- $|\nabla K(x)| \leq |x|^{-(n+1)}, x \neq 0.$

Define the singular integral operator  $Tf(x) = K * f(x).$

Examples:

- Hilbert transform:  $K(x) = \frac{1}{x}$
- Riesz transforms:  $K(x) = \frac{x_j}{|x|^{n+1}}, 1 \leq j \leq n$



# $L^{p(\cdot)}$ estimates

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## Theorem

*Given  $p(\cdot)$ ,  $1 < p_- \leq p_+ < \infty$ , if  $M$  is bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}$ , then*

$$\|Tf\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}$$

*where  $T$  is a singular integral.*



# Proof of $L^{p(\cdot)}$ estimates

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If  $1 < p_- \leq p_+ < \infty$  and  $M$  is bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}$ ,  
 $\exists s > 1$  such that  $M$  bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)/s}$ , and so  
bounded on  $L^{(p(\cdot)/s)'}$ .

Let  $p_0 = p_-/s > 1$ . For  $w \in A_{p_0}$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tf(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p_0} w(x) dx.$$

Hence, by extrapolation,

$$\|Tf\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|f\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$





# Variable Sobolev spaces

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Given  $\Omega$  and  $p(\cdot)$  define

$$W^{k,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) = \{f : f, \partial^\alpha f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega), |\alpha| \leq k\}.$$

$$\|f\|_{W^{k,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)} = \|f\|_{p(\cdot)} + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|\partial^\alpha f\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$

$W^{k,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$  is a Banach function space.

$W_0^{k,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ : closure of  $C_c(\Omega)$  in  $W^{k,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$



# Density of smooth functions

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Question: When are smooth functions dense in  $W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ ?

Let  $B$  be the unit disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and define for  $x = (r, \theta)$

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} 3/2 & 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi < \theta < \frac{3\pi}{2} \\ 4 & \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2} < \theta < 2\pi. \end{cases}$$

Then continuous functions are not dense in  $W^{1,p(\cdot)}(B)$ .



# Density of $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$

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## Theorem

*Let  $p(\cdot) \in LH_0$ . Then  $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is dense in  $W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .*

- Use smooth cut-off function to show functions of compact support are dense.
- Fix ball  $B$ ;  $M$  bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}(2B)$
- Fix approximate identity  $\{\phi_t\}$ ,  $\phi \in C_c^\infty$
- If  $\text{supp}(f) \subset B$ ,  $\phi_t * f \in C_c^\infty(2B)$
- $\|\phi_t * f - f\|_{L^{p(\cdot)}(2B)} \rightarrow 0$



# Sobolev embedding theorem

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## Theorem

*Given  $\Omega$  and  $p(\cdot) \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  such that  $p_+ < n$ , define  $p^*(\cdot)$  by  $p(x)^{-1} - p^*(x)^{-1} = 1/n$ . If  $M$  is bounded on  $L^{(p^*(\cdot)/(p^*(\cdot)-)')}(\Omega)$ , then  $W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \subset L^{p^*(\cdot)}(\Omega)$  and*

$$\|f\|_{p^*(\cdot)} \leq \|\nabla f\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$



# Proof of Sobolev embedding

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- Weak  $(p, p^*)$  inequality for  $I_1$ :  $w \in A_1$ ,  $1 \leq p < n$ ,

$$\|I_1 f\|_{L^{p^*, \infty}(w)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(w^{p^*/p})}$$

- Long-Nie decomposition to get weighted Sobolev embedding:  $w \in A_1$ ,  $1 \leq p < n$ ,

$$\|f\|_{L^{p^*}(w)} \leq C \|\nabla f\|_{L^p(w^{p^*/p})}$$

- Off-diagonal extrapolation.



# Calderón-Zygmund theorem

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## Theorem

*Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be bounded, and  $p(\cdot) \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  be such that  $p(\cdot) \in LH_0$  and  $p_+ < n/2$ . Given  $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ , if  $u$  is a solution to*

$$\Delta u = f,$$

*then  $u \in W^{2,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ .*



# Norm Inequalities $p_+ = \infty$

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Does there exist an extrapolation theory into  $L^{p(\cdot)}$  if  $p_+ = \infty$ ?

Does there exist  $p(\cdot)$ ,  $p_+ = \infty$  but  $|\Omega_\infty| = 0$ , such that singular integrals are bounded on  $L^{p(\cdot)}$ ?



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