

# LIMITING CASE OF THE BOUNDEDNESS OF FRACTIONAL INTEGRAL OPERATORS ON NONHOMOGENEOUS SPACE

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We show the boundedness of fractional integral operators by means of extrapolation. We also show that our result is sharp.

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## 1. Introduction

Recently, harmonic analysis on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with nondoubling measures has been developed very rapidly; here, by a doubling measure, we mean a Radon measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying  $\mu(B(x, 2r)) \leq c_0\mu(B(x, r))$ ,  $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ ,  $r > 0$ . In what follows,  $B(x, r)$  is the closed ball centered at  $x$  of radius  $r$ . In this paper, we deal with measures which do not necessarily satisfy the doubling condition.

We can list [7, 8, 11] as important works in this field. Tolsa proved subadditivity and bi-Lipschitz invariance of the analytic capacity [12, 13]. Many function spaces and many linear operators for such measures stem from their works. For example, Tolsa has defined the Hardy space  $H^1(\mu)$  [11]. Han and Yang have defined the Triebel-Lizorkin spaces [3].

In the present paper, we mainly deal with the fractional integral operators. We occasionally postulate the growth condition on  $\mu$ :

$$\mu \text{ is a Radon measure on } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ with } \mu(B(x, r)) \leq c_0 r^n \quad \text{for some } c_0 > 0, 0 < n \leq d. \quad (1.1)$$

A growth measure is a Radon measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.1). We define the fractional integral operator  $I_\alpha$  associated with the growth measure  $\mu$  as

$$I_\alpha f(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(y)}{|x - y|^{n\alpha}} d\mu(y), \quad 0 < \alpha < 1. \quad (1.2)$$

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Let  $1/q = 1/p - (1 - \alpha)$  with  $1 < p < q < \infty$ .  $L^p(\mu)$ - $L^q(\mu)$  boundedness of  $I_\alpha$  in a more general form was proved by Kokilashvili [4]. On general nonhomogeneous spaces, that is, on metric measure spaces, it was also proved in [5] (see [1]). In [2], the limit case  $p = 1/(1 - \alpha)$  was considered. In general, the integral defining  $I_\alpha f(x)$  does not converge absolutely for  $\mu$ - a.e., if  $f \in L^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)$ . García-Cuerva and Gatto considered some modified operator and showed its boundedness from  $L^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)$  to some BMO-like space defined in [11].

This paper deals mainly with the Morrey spaces. By a cube, we mean a set of the form

$$Q(x, r) := [x_1 - r, x_1 + r] \times \cdots \times [x_d - r, x_d + r], \quad x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad 0 < r \leq \infty. \quad (1.3)$$

Given a cube  $Q = Q(x, r)$ ,  $\kappa > 0$ , we denote  $\kappa Q := Q(x, \kappa r)$  and  $\ell(Q) = 2r$ . We define  $\mathfrak{Q}(\mu)$  by

$$\mathfrak{Q}(\mu) := \{Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d : Q \text{ is a cube with } 0 < \mu(Q) < \infty\}. \quad (1.4)$$

Now we are in the position of describing the Morrey spaces for nondoubling measures.

*Definition 1.1* (see [10, Section 1]). Let  $0 < q \leq p < \infty$ ,  $k > 1$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{M}_q^p(k, \mu)$  a set of  $L_{\text{loc}}^q(\mu)$  functions  $f$  for which the quasinorm

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_q^p(k, \mu)\| := \sup_{Q \in \mathfrak{Q}(\mu)} \mu(kQ)^{1/p-1/q} \left( \int_Q |f(y)|^q d\mu(y) \right)^{1/q} < \infty. \quad (1.5)$$

Note that this definition does not involve the growth condition (1.1). So in this paper, we assume  $\mu$  is just a Radon measure unless otherwise stated.

Key properties that we are going to use can be summarized as follows.

**PROPOSITION 1.2** (see [10, Proposition 1.1]). *Let  $0 < q \leq p < \infty$ ,  $k_1 > k_2 > 1$ . Then there exists  $C_{d, k_1, k_2, q}$  so that, for every  $\mu$ -measurable function  $f$ ,*

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_q^p(k_2, \mu)\| \leq \|f : \mathcal{M}_q^p(k_1, \mu)\| \leq C_{d, k_1, k_2, q} \|f : \mathcal{M}_q^p(k_2, \mu)\|. \quad (1.6)$$

The proof is omitted: interested readers may consult [10]. However, we deal with similar assertion whose proof is wholly included in this present paper.

**LEMMA 1.3** (see [10, Section 1]). (1) *Let  $0 < q_1 \leq q_2 \leq p < \infty$  and  $k > 1$ . Then*

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_{q_1}^p(k, \mu)\| \leq \|f : \mathcal{M}_{q_2}^p(k, \mu)\| \leq \|f : \mathcal{M}_p^p(k, \mu)\| = \|f : L^p(\mu)\|. \quad (1.7)$$

(2) *Let  $\mu(\mathbb{R}^d) < \infty$  and  $0 < q \leq p_1 \leq p_2 < \infty$ . Then*

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_q^{p_1}(k, \mu)\| \leq \mu(\mathbb{R}^d)^{1/p_1-1/p_2} \|f : \mathcal{M}_q^{p_2}(k, \mu)\|. \quad (1.8)$$

*Proof.* Equation (1.7) is straightforward by using the Hölder inequality.

As for (1.8), thanks to the finiteness of  $\mu$  writing out the left-hand side in full, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f : \mathcal{M}_q^{p_1}(k, \mu)\| &= \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(kQ)^{1/p_1 - 1/q} \left( \int_Q |f(y)|^q d\mu(y) \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(\mathbb{R}^d)^{1/p_1 - 1/p_2} \mu(kQ)^{1/p_2 - 1/q} \left( \int_Q |f(y)|^q d\mu(y) \right)^{1/q} \\ &= \mu(\mathbb{R}^d)^{1/p_1 - 1/p_2} \|f : \mathcal{M}_q^{p_2}(k, \mu)\|. \end{aligned} \quad (1.9)$$

Lemma 1.3 is therefore proved.  $\square$

Keeping Proposition 1.2 in mind, for simplicity, we denote

$$\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu) := \mathcal{M}_q^p(2, \mu), \quad \|\cdot : \mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)\| := \|\cdot : \mathcal{M}_q^p(2, \mu)\|. \quad (1.10)$$

In [10, Theorem 3.3], we showed that  $I_\alpha$  is bounded from  $\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)$  to  $\mathcal{M}_i^s(\mu)$ , if

$$\frac{q}{p} = \frac{t}{s}, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - (1 - \alpha), \quad 1 < q \leq p < \infty, \quad 1 < t \leq s < \infty, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1. \quad (1.11)$$

Having described the main function spaces, we present our problem. In the present paper, from the viewpoint different from [2], we will consider the limit case of the boundedness of  $I_\alpha$  as “ $p \rightarrow 1/(1 - \alpha)$ ” or “ $s \rightarrow \infty$ ,” where  $p$  and  $s$  satisfy (1.11).

*Problem 1.4.* Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and assume that  $\mu$  is a finite growth measure. Find a nice function space  $X$  to which  $I_\alpha$  sends  $\mathcal{M}_q^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)$  continuously, where  $1 < q \leq 1/(1 - \alpha)$ .

Although the Morrey spaces are the function spaces coming with two parameters, we arrange  $\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)$  to  $\mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)$  with  $\beta \in (0, 1]$  fixed and regard them as a family of function spaces parameterized only by  $p$ . We turn our attention to the family of spaces  $\{\mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\}_{p \in (0, \infty)}$ . We also consider the generalized version of Problem 1.4.

*Problem 1.5.* Let  $\mu$  be finite and  $0 < p_0 < p < r < \infty$ ,  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ ,  $1/s = 1/p - 1/r$ . Suppose that we are given an operator  $T$  from  $\bigcup_{p > p_0} \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)$  to  $\bigcup_{s > 0} \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)$ . Assume, restricting  $T$  to  $\mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)$ , we have a precise estimate

$$\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq c(s) \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|, \quad (1.12)$$

where  $1/s = 1/p - 1/r$  with  $p, r, s > 0$ . Then what can we say about the boundedness of  $T$  on the limit function space  $\mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)$ ?

Here we describe the organization of this paper. Section 2 is devoted to the definition of the function spaces to answer Problems 1.4 and 1.5. In Section 3, we give a general machinery for Problems 1.4 and 1.5.  $I_\alpha$  appearing here will be an example of the theorem in Section 3. Besides  $I_\alpha$ , we take up two types of other fractional integral operators. The task in Section 4 is to determine  $c(s)$  in (1.12) precisely. We skillfully use two types of fractional integral operators as well as  $I_\alpha$  to see the size of  $c(s)$ . In Section 5, we exhibit an

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example showing the sharpness of the estimate of  $c(s)$  obtained in Section 4. The example will reveal us the difference between the Morrey spaces and the  $L^p$  spaces.

### 2. Orlicz-Morrey spaces $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu)$

In this section, we introduce function spaces  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu)$  to formulate our main results. E. Nakai defined  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu)$  for Lebesgue measure  $\mu = dx$ . We denote by  $|E|$  the volume of a measurable set  $E$ . Let  $\Phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a Young function, that is,  $\Phi$  is convex with  $\Phi(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(x) = \infty$ .

For  $\beta \in (0, 1]$ , E. Nakai has defined the Orlicz-Morrey spaces: the space  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(dx)$  consists of all measurable functions  $f$  for which the norm

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(dx)\| := \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(dx)} |Q|^{\beta-1} \int_Q \Phi \left( \frac{|f(y)|}{\lambda} \right) dy \leq 1 \right\} < \infty. \quad (2.1)$$

For details, we refer to [6].

Motivated by this definition and that of  $\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)$  with  $0 < q \leq p < \infty$ , we define the Orlicz-Morrey spaces  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu)$  as follows.

*Definition 2.1.* Let  $\beta \in (0, 1]$ ,  $k > 1$ , and  $\Phi$  be a Young function. Then define

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k, \mu)\| := \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(kQ)^{\beta-1} \int_Q \Phi \left( \frac{|f(y)|}{\lambda} \right) d\mu(y) \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (2.2)$$

We define the function space  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k, \mu)$  as a set of  $\mu$ -measurable functions  $f$  for which the norm is finite.

The function space  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k, \mu)$  is independent of  $k > 1$ . More precisely, we have the following.

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *Let  $k_1 > k_2 > 1$ . Then there exists constant  $C_{d, k_1, k_2}$  such that*

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_1, \mu)\| \leq \|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_2, \mu)\| \leq C_{d, k_1, k_2} \|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_1, \mu)\|. \quad (2.3)$$

Here,  $C_{d, k_1, k_2} > 0$  is independent of  $f$ .

*Proof.* By the monotonicity of  $\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k, \mu)\|$  with respect to  $k$ , the left inequality is obvious. What is essential in (2.3) is the right inequality. The monotonicity allows us to assume that  $k_1 = 2k_2 - 1$ . We take  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)$  arbitrarily. We have to majorize

$$\inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \mu(k_2 Q)^{\beta-1} \int_Q \Phi \left( \frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda} \right) d\mu(x) \leq 1 \right\} \quad (2.4)$$

by  $\lambda_0 := \|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_1, \mu)\|$  uniformly over  $Q$ .

Bisect  $Q$  into  $2^d$  cubes and label  $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_L$  to those in  $\mathcal{Q}(\mu)$ , then the distance between the boundary of  $k_2Q$  and the center of  $Q_j$  is

$$\left(\frac{k_2}{2} - \frac{1}{4}\right)\ell(Q) = \frac{k_1}{4}\ell(Q). \quad (2.5)$$

Consequently, we have  $k_1Q_j \subset k_2Q$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, L$ . This inclusion gives us that

$$\mu(k_2Q)^{\beta-1} \int_Q \Phi\left(\frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda_0}\right) d\mu(x) \leq \sum_{j=1}^L \mu(k_1Q_j)^{\beta-1} \int_{Q_j} \Phi\left(\frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda_0}\right) d\mu(x) \leq 2^d. \quad (2.6)$$

Note that  $\Phi(tx) \leq t\Phi(x)$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  by convexity. As a result, we obtain

$$\sup_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(k_2Q)^{\beta-1} \int_Q \Phi\left(\frac{|f(x)|}{2^d\lambda_0}\right) d\mu(x) \leq 1. \quad (2.7)$$

Thus we have obtained

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_2, \mu)\| \leq 2^d\lambda_0 = 2^d\|f : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(k_1, \mu)\|. \quad (2.8)$$

Hence we have established that we can take  $C_{d,2k_2-1,k_2} = 2^d$ .  $\square$

Keeping this proposition in mind, we set  $\mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu) := \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(2, \mu)$ . The same argument as Proposition 2.2 works for Proposition 1.2.

### 3. Extrapolation theorem on the Morrey spaces

In this section, we will prove the key lemma dealing with an extrapolation theorem on the Morrey spaces. Assume that  $\mu$  is finite and

$$0 < p_0 < p < r < \infty, \quad 0 < \beta \leq 1, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{r}. \quad (3.1)$$

Let  $T$  be an operator from  $\mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)$  to  $\mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)$  with a precise estimate

$$\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq cs^\rho \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|, \quad \rho > 0. \quad (3.2)$$

Then we can say that the limit result of

$$T : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu) \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu), \quad p_0 < p < r, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{r}, \quad (3.3)$$

as  $p \rightarrow r, s \rightarrow \infty$ , is

$$T : \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu) \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu), \quad (3.4)$$

where  $\Phi(x) = \exp(x^{1/\rho}) - 1$ . More precisely, our main extrapolation theorem is the following.

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**THEOREM 3.1.** *Suppose  $\mu(\mathbb{R}^d) < \infty$ . Let  $0 < p_0 < r$ ,  $0 < \rho \leq 1$ , and  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ . Suppose that the sublinear operator  $T$  satisfies*

$$\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq C_0 s^\rho \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\| \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu) \quad (3.5)$$

for each  $p_0 \leq p < r$  with  $1/s = 1/p - 1/r$ . Here,  $C_0 > 0$  is a constant independent of  $p$  and  $s$ . Then there exists a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\sup_Q \left[ \int_Q \left[ \exp \left( \delta \left| \frac{Tf(x)}{\|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)\|} \right|^{1/\rho} \right) - 1 \right] \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \right] \leq 1 \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu) \quad (3.6)$$

or equivalently

$$\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_\beta^\Phi(\mu)\| \leq \delta^{-1/\rho} \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)\| \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu) \quad (3.7)$$

for  $\Phi(t) = \exp(t^{1/\rho}) - 1$ .

More can be said about this theorem: the case when  $\beta = 1$  corresponds to the Zygmund-type extrapolation theorem (see [15]). Set  $L^\Phi(\mu) = \mathcal{M}_1^\Phi(\mu)$ .

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *Keep to the same assumption as Theorem 3.1 on  $\mu$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $p_0$ ,  $r$ , and  $T$ . Suppose*

$$\|Tf : L^s(\mu)\| \leq C_0 s^\rho \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \quad \forall f \in L^p(\mu) \quad (3.8)$$

for  $s, p$  with  $1/s = 1/p - 1/r$ . Here,  $C_0 > 0$  is a constant independent of  $p$  and  $s$ . Then there exists some constant  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[ \exp \left( \delta \left| \frac{Tf(x)}{\|f : L^r(\mu)\|} \right|^{1/\rho} \right) - 1 \right] d\mu(x) \leq 1 \quad \forall f \in L^r(\mu) \quad (3.9)$$

or equivalently

$$\|Tf : L^\Phi(\mu)\| \leq \delta^{-1/\rho} \|f : L^r(\mu)\| \quad \forall f \in L^r(\mu). \quad (3.10)$$

Before we come to the proof, a remark may be in order.

*Remark 3.3.* Suppose that  $\Omega$  is a bounded open set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Applying  $T = I_\alpha$  with  $\mu = dx|_\Omega$ , Lebesgue measure on  $\Omega$ , we obtain a result corresponding to the one in [14].

The proof of Theorem 3.1 is after the one of Zygmund's extrapolation theorem in [15].

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* By subadditivity, it can be assumed that  $\|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)\| = 1$ . From (3.5) and Lemma 1.3, we have  $\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq c s^\rho \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\| \leq c s^\rho$ .

Let  $Q \in \mathfrak{Q}(\mu)$ . Then by Taylor's expansion,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q \left\{ \exp\left(\delta |Tf(x)|^{1/\rho}\right) - 1 \right\} \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \int_Q |Tf(x)|^{k/\rho} \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{k/\rho}^{k/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^L \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{k/\rho}^{k/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho} + \sum_{k=L+1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{k/\rho}^{k/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

where  $L$  is the largest integer not exceeding  $\beta\rho p_0$ . If we invoke Lemma 1.3, we see

$$\sum_{k=1}^L \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{k/\rho}^{k/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho} \leq c \sum_{k=1}^L \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{L/\rho}^{L/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho} \leq c \sum_{k=1}^L \delta^k. \quad (3.12)$$

By (3.5), we have

$$\sum_{k=L+1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta^k}{k!} \|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{k/\rho}^{k/\rho\beta}(\mu)\|^{k/\rho} \leq \sum_{k=L+1}^{\infty} \frac{(c\delta)^k k^k}{k!}. \quad (3.13)$$

We put (3.12) and (3.13) together,

$$\int_Q \left\{ \exp\left(\delta |Tf(x)|^{1/\rho}\right) - 1 \right\} \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(c\delta)^k k^k}{k!}. \quad (3.14)$$

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (k^k/k!)^{1/k} = e$  implies that the function  $\psi(\delta) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ((C_0\delta)^k k^k/k!)$  is a continuous function in the neighborhood of 0 in  $[0, 1)$  with  $\psi(0) = 0$ . Consequently, if  $\delta$  is small enough, then

$$\int_Q \left\{ \exp\left(\delta |Tf(x)|^{1/\rho}\right) - 1 \right\} \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \leq \psi(\delta) \leq 1 \quad (3.15)$$

for all  $f \in \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)$  with  $\|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta r}^r(\mu)\| = 1$ . Theorem 3.1 is therefore proved.  $\square$

*Remark 3.4.* To obtain Theorem 3.1, the growth condition is unnecessary. Thus, the proof is still available, if  $\mu$  is just a finite Radon measure.

#### 4. Precise estimate of the fractional integrals

Our task in this section is to see the size of  $c(s)$  in (1.12) with  $T = I_\alpha$ . The estimates involve the modified uncentered maximal operator given by

$$M_\kappa f(x) := \sup_{x \in Q \in \mathfrak{Q}(\mu)} \frac{1}{\mu(\kappa Q)} \int_Q |f(y)| d\mu(y), \quad \kappa > 1. \quad (4.1)$$

We make a quick view of the size of the constant. First, we see that

$$\mu\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : M_\kappa f(x) > \lambda\} \leq \frac{C_{d,\kappa}}{\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(x)| d\mu(x) \quad (4.2)$$

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by Besicovitch's covering lemma. Then thanks to Marcinkiewicz's interpolation theorem, we obtain a precise estimate of the operator norm of  $M_\kappa$ :

$$\|M_\kappa\|_{L^p(\mu) \rightarrow L^p(\mu)} \leq \frac{C_{d,\kappa p}}{p-1}. \quad (4.3)$$

Finally, examining the proof in [10, Theorem 2.3] gives us the estimate of the operator norm on  $\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)$ :

$$\|M_\kappa\|_{\mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_q^p(\mu)} \leq \frac{C_{d,\kappa q}}{q-1}. \quad (4.4)$$

We will make use of (4.3) and (4.4) in this section.

**4.1. Fractional integral operators  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$  and  $I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b$ .** For the definition of  $I_\alpha$ , the growth condition on  $\mu$  is indispensable. However, in [9], the theory of fractional integral operators without the growth condition was developed. The construction of the fractional integral operators without the growth condition involves a covering lemma. In this present paper, we intend to define another substitute. We take advantage of the simple definition of the new fractional integral operator.

*Definition 4.1* (see [9, Definitions 13, 14]). Let  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $\kappa > 1$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , take  $\mathcal{Q}^{(k)} \subset \mathcal{Q}(\mu)$  that satisfies the following.

- (1) For all  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}$ ,  $2^k < \mu(\kappa^2 Q) \leq 2^{k+1}$ .
- (2)  $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}} \chi_{\kappa Q}(x) \leq N_\kappa < \infty$ , where  $N_\kappa$  depends only on  $\kappa$  and  $d$ .
- (3) For any cube with  $2^{k-1} < \mu(\kappa^2 Q') \leq 2^k$ , find  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}$  such that  $Q' \subset \kappa Q$ .

By the way of  $\{\mathcal{Q}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ , for  $f \in L_{\text{loc}}^1(\mu)$ , define the operator  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$  as

$$J_{\alpha,\kappa} f(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}} \frac{\chi_{\kappa Q}(x) \chi_{\kappa Q}(y)}{2^{k\alpha}} f(y) d\mu(y). \quad (4.5)$$

If

$$j_{\alpha,\kappa}(x, y) := \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}} \frac{\chi_{\kappa Q}(x) \chi_{\kappa Q}(y)}{2^{k\alpha}}, \quad (4.6)$$

then one can write  $J_{\alpha,\kappa} f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} j_{\alpha,\kappa}(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y)$  in terms of the integral kernel.

What is important about  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$  is that it is linear, it can be defined for any Radon measure  $\mu$  and, if  $\mu$  satisfies the growth condition, it plays a role of the majorant operator of  $I_\alpha$ . We give a more simpler fractional maximal operator which substitutes for  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$ .

*Definition 4.2.* Let  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $\kappa > 1$ . For  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ , set

$$K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) = \sup_{x, y \in Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(\kappa Q)^{-\alpha}. \quad (4.7)$$

It will be understood that  $K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) = 0$  unless  $x, y \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ . For a positive  $\mu$ -measurable function  $f$ , set

$$I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y). \quad (4.8)$$

Suppose that  $\mu$  satisfies the growth condition (1.1). Then the comparison of the kernel reveals us that  $I_\alpha f(x) \leq c I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f(x)$   $\mu$ -a.e. for all positive  $\mu$ -measurable functions  $f$ .

$I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b$  and  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$  are comparable in the following sense.

LEMMA 4.3. *Let  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $\kappa > 1$ . There exists constant  $C > 0$  so that, for every positive  $\mu$ -measurable function  $f$ ,*

$$I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f(x) \leq J_{\alpha,\kappa} f(x) \leq C I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f(x). \quad (4.9)$$

*Proof.* It suffices to compare the kernel.

First, we will deal with the left inequality. Suppose that  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)$  contains  $x, y$  and satisfies

$$2^{k_0} < \mu(\kappa^2 Q) \leq 2^{k_0+1}, \quad k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (4.10)$$

Then by Definition 4.1, we can find  $Q^* \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k_0)}$  such that  $Q \subset \kappa Q^*$ . Since  $\kappa Q^*$  contains both  $x$  and  $y$ , we obtain

$$\mu(\kappa^2 Q)^{-\alpha} \leq 2^{-k_0 \alpha} = \frac{\chi_{\kappa Q^*}(x) \chi_{\kappa Q^*}(y)}{2^{k_0 \alpha}} \leq j_{\alpha,\kappa}(x, y). \quad (4.11)$$

Consequently, the left inequality is established.

We turn to the right inequality. Assume that

$$2^{-\alpha(k_1+1)} \leq K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) < 2^{-\alpha k_1}, \quad k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (4.12)$$

Let  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}$ . Suppose that  $\kappa Q$  contains  $x, y$ . Then by definition,

$$\mu(\kappa^2 Q)^{-\alpha} \leq K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) < 2^{-\alpha k_1} \quad (4.13)$$

and hence  $\mu(\kappa^2 Q) > 2^{k_1}$ . Since  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}$ , we have  $k \geq k_1$ . Thus if  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}$  and  $\kappa Q$  contains  $x, y$ , then  $k \geq k_1$ . From the definition of  $j_{\alpha,\kappa}$ , it follows that

$$j_{\alpha,\kappa}(x, y) = \sum_{k \geq k_1} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}^{(k)}} \frac{\chi_{\kappa Q}(x) \chi_{\kappa Q}(y)}{2^{k \alpha}} \leq c N_\kappa \sum_{k \geq k_1} \frac{1}{2^{k \alpha}} = c 2^{-k_1 \alpha} \leq c K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y). \quad (4.14)$$

As a result, the right inequality is proved.  $\square$

We summarize the relations between three operators.

COROLLARY 4.4. *If  $\mu$  satisfies the growth condition (1.1), then, for every positive  $\mu$ -measurable function  $f$ ,*

$$I_\alpha f(x) \lesssim J_{\alpha,\kappa} f(x) \sim I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f(x), \quad (4.15)$$

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and  $\mu$ - a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , where the implicit constants in  $\lesssim$  and  $\sim$  depend only on  $\alpha$ ,  $\kappa$ , and  $c_0$  in (1.1).

**4.2.  $L^p$ -estimates.** Here we will prove the  $L^p$ -estimates associated with fractional integral operators.

**THEOREM 4.5.** *Let  $\kappa > 1$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , and  $p_0 > 1$ . Assume that  $p, s > 1$  satisfy*

$$p_0 \leq p, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - (1 - \alpha). \quad (4.16)$$

Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  depending only on  $\alpha$  and  $p_0$  so that, for every  $f \in L^p(\mu)$ ,

$$\|J_{\alpha, \kappa} f : L^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs^\alpha \|f : L^p(\mu)\|, \quad (4.17)$$

$$\|I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f : L^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs^\alpha \|f : L^p(\mu)\|. \quad (4.18)$$

If  $\mu$  additionally satisfies the growth condition (1.1), then

$$\|I_\alpha f : L^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs^\alpha \|f : L^p(\mu)\|. \quad (4.19)$$

*Proof.* We have only to prove (4.18). The rest is immediate once we prove it. We may assume that  $f$  is positive. Let  $R > 0$  be fixed. We will split  $I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x)$ . For fixed  $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ , let us set

$$\mathcal{D}_j := \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{x\} : 2^{j-1}R < \inf_{x, y \in Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu)} \mu(\kappa Q) \leq 2^j R \right\}, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (4.20)$$

We decompose  $I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x)$  by using the partition  $\{\mathcal{D}_j\}_{j=-\infty}^\infty \cup \{x\}$  of  $\text{supp}(\mu)$ . For the time being, we assume that  $\mu$  charges  $\{x\}$ . By definition, we have

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^0 \int_{\mathcal{D}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) + \int_{\cup_{j=1}^\infty \mathcal{D}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) + \mu(\{x\})^{1-\alpha} f(x). \quad (4.21)$$

Suppose that  $\mathcal{D}_j$  is nonempty. By the Besicovitch covering lemma, we can find  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , independent of  $x$ ,  $j$ , and  $R$ , and a collection of cubes  $Q_1^j, Q_2^j, \dots, Q_N^j$  which contain  $x$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_j \subset \sqrt{\kappa}Q_1^j \cup \sqrt{\kappa}Q_2^j \cup \dots \cup \sqrt{\kappa}Q_N^j$  and  $\mu(\kappa Q_l^j) \leq 2^{j+1}R$  for all  $1 \leq l \leq N$  and  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

From this covering and the definition of  $\mathcal{D}_j$ , we obtain  $\mu(\mathcal{D}_j) \leq c2^j R$ . With these observations, it follows that

$$\sum_{j=-\infty}^0 \int_{\mathcal{D}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \leq c \sum_{j=-\infty}^0 \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{1}{2^{j\alpha} R^\alpha} \int_{\sqrt{\kappa}Q_l^j} f(y) d\mu(y) \leq cR^{1-\alpha} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x). \quad (4.22)$$

The estimate of the second term will be accomplished by the Hölder inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
& \leq \left( \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y)^{p'} d\mu(y) \right)^{1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \\
& = \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{\mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y)^{p'} d\mu(y) \right)^{1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \\
& \leq c \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (2^j R)^{1-\alpha p'} \right)^{1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \leq c \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right)^{-1/p'} R^{1/p' - \alpha} \|f : L^p(\mu)\|,
\end{aligned} \tag{4.23}$$

where we use an inequality  $1/(2^a - 1) \leq 1/(\log 2 \cdot a)$ ,  $a > 0$ . Taking into account these estimates, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{j=-\infty}^0 \int_{\mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) + \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
& \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} \left( R^{1-\alpha} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x) + R^{-(\alpha-1/p')} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right)^{-1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{4.24}$$

We have to deal with  $\mu(\{x\})^{1-\alpha} f(x)$ . If  $\mu(\{x\}) \leq R$ , then  $\mu(\{x\})^{1-\alpha} f(x) \leq R^{1-\alpha} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)$ . Conversely, if  $\mu(\{x\}) \geq R$ , then  $\mu(\{x\})^{1-\alpha} f(x) \leq R^{-(\alpha-1/p')} \|f : L^p(\mu)\|$ . As a result, we can incorporate  $\mu(\{x\})^{1-\alpha} f(x)$  to the above formula. The result is

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} \left( R^{1-\alpha} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x) + R^{-(\alpha-1/p')} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right)^{-1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\| \right) \tag{4.25}$$

for all  $R \in (0, \infty)$ . Taking

$$R = \left( \frac{(\alpha - 1/p')^{-1/p'} \|f : L^p(\mu)\|}{M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)} \right)^p, \tag{4.26}$$

we have

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right)^{-(1-\alpha)(p-1)} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)^{p(\alpha-1/p')} \|f : L^p(\mu)\|^{1-p(\alpha-1/p')}. \tag{4.27}$$

Recall that  $1/s = \alpha - 1/p'$  by assumption. Thus the above estimate can be restated as

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} s^{(1-\alpha)(p-1)} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)^{p/s} \|f : L^p(\mu)\|^{1-p/s}. \tag{4.28}$$

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Inserting  $p(1 - \alpha) - 1 = -p/s$ , we see  $s^{(1-\alpha)(p-1)} = s^{\alpha-p/s} \leq s^\alpha$ . As a consequence, we have

$$\|I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f : L^s(\mu)\| \leq C_{\alpha,\kappa,p_0} s^\alpha \|f : L^p(\mu)\|. \quad (4.29)$$

This is the desired estimate.  $\square$

Consequently, if we use Theorem 3.1, then we obtain the following.

**THEOREM 4.6.** *Assume that  $\mu$  is a finite Radon measure. Let  $T$  be either  $J_{\alpha,\kappa}$  or  $I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b$  with  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $\kappa > 1$ . Then there exists  $C > 0$  so that, for every  $f \in L^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)$ ,*

$$\|Tf : L^\Phi(\mu)\| \leq C \|f : L^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)\|, \quad (4.30)$$

where  $\Phi(x) = \exp(x^{1/\alpha}) - 1$ . If  $\mu$  satisfies the growth condition (1.1), then (4.30) is still available for  $T = I_\alpha$ .

**4.3. Morrey estimates.** Now we will prove the Morrey estimates associated with fractional integral operators.

**THEOREM 4.7.** *Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ ,  $\kappa > 1$ , and  $p_0 > 1/\beta$ . Assume that  $p$  and  $s$  satisfy*

$$p_0 \leq p < \infty, \quad 1 < s < \infty, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - (1 - \alpha). \quad (4.31)$$

Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  depending only on  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $p_0$  so that, for every  $f \in \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)$ ,

$$\|J_{\alpha,\kappa} f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|, \quad (4.32)$$

$$\|I_{\alpha,\kappa}^b f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|. \quad (4.33)$$

If  $\mu$  additionally satisfies the growth condition (1.1), then

$$\|I_\alpha f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq Cs \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|. \quad (4.34)$$

*Proof.* It is enough to prove (4.33) for a positive  $\mu$ -measurable function  $f$ . We have only to make a minor change of the proof of Theorem 4.5. So we indicate the necessary change. Under the notation in the proof of Theorem 4.5, we change the estimate of

$$\int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^\infty \mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha,\kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y). \quad (4.35)$$

By using the Morrey norm, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{\mathcal{Q}_j} K_{\alpha, \kappa}^b(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
&\leq c \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{1}{2^{j\alpha} R^\alpha} \int_{\sqrt{\kappa} Q_l^j} f(y) d\mu(y) \\
&\leq c \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^N 2^{-j(\alpha-1/p')} R^{-(\alpha-1/p')} \|f : \mathcal{M}_1^p(\mu)\| \\
&\leq c R^{-(\alpha-1/p')} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right) \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.36}$$

Proceeding in the same way as Theorem 4.5, we obtain

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} \left( R^{1-\alpha} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x) + R^{1/p' - \alpha} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right) \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\| \right). \tag{4.37}$$

Now  $R$  is still at our disposal again. Thus, if we put

$$R = \left( \frac{(\alpha - 1/p') \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|^p}{M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)} \right)^p, \tag{4.38}$$

we have the pointwise estimate

$$I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{p'} \right)^{-p(1-\alpha)} M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)^{p(\alpha-1/p')} \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|^{1-p(\alpha-1/p')}. \tag{4.39}$$

Using  $\alpha - 1/p' = 1/s$ , we have  $(\alpha - 1/p')^{-p(1-\alpha)} = s^{1-p(\alpha-1/p')} = s^{1-p/s} \leq s$ . If we insert this estimate, (4.39) is simplified to  $I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f(x) \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa} s M_{\sqrt{\kappa}} f(x)^{p/s} \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|^{1-p/s}$ . By using the boundedness of  $M_{\sqrt{\kappa}}$ , we finally have

$$\|I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \leq C_{\alpha, \kappa, p_0} s \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu)\|. \tag{4.40}$$

This is the desired result.  $\square$

If we use our extrapolation machinery, we obtain the following.

**THEOREM 4.8.** *Assume that  $\mu$  is a finite Radon measure. Let  $T$  be either  $J_{\alpha, \kappa}$  or  $I_{\alpha, \kappa}^b$  with  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $1 - \alpha < \beta \leq 1$ , and  $\kappa > 1$ . Then there exists  $C > 0$  such that*

$$\|Tf : \mathcal{M}_{\beta}^{\Phi}(\mu)\| \leq C \|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta/(1-\alpha)}^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)\| \tag{4.41}$$

for all  $f \in L^{1/(1-\alpha)}(\mu)$ , where  $\Phi(x) = \exp(x) - 1$ . If  $\mu$  satisfies the growth condition (1.1), then (4.41) is still valid for  $T = I_{\alpha}$ .

### 5. Sharpness of the results

Finally, we show that Theorems 4.7 and 4.8 are sharp. The notations in this section are valid here only.

*Example 5.1.* Let  $\mu = dx|_{(0,1)}$  be the restriction of one-dimensional Lebesgue measure to  $(0, 1)$ ,  $n = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 1/2$ , and  $f(x) = |x|^{-1/2}$ .

We claim the following.

*Claim 5.2.*  $f \in \mathcal{M}_{2\beta}^2(\mu)$  for all  $0 < \beta < 1$ .

*Claim 5.3.*  $I_{1/2}f(x)$  differs from  $\log(1/x)$  by some constant  $C_1$  independent of  $x$ . In particular,

$$\|I_{1/2}f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)\| \geq \|I_{1/2}f : L^{\beta s}(\mu)\| \geq c_{\beta s} - C_1 \quad (5.1)$$

for all  $s \geq 1/\beta$ .

*Proof of Claim 5.2.* By definition of the Morrey norm  $\|\cdot : \mathcal{M}_{2\beta}^2(\mu)\|$ , we have

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_{2\beta}^2(\mu)\| = \sup_{\substack{Q \in \mathcal{Q}(\mu) \\ Q \subset [0,1]}} \mu(2Q)^{1/2-1/2\beta} \left( \int_Q |f(y)|^{2\beta} d\mu(y) \right)^{1/2\beta}. \quad (5.2)$$

Writing it out in full, we obtain

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_{2\beta}^2(\mu)\| \leq \sup_{0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1} (b-a)^{1/2-1/2\beta} \left( \int_a^b |x|^{-\beta} dx \right)^{1/2\beta}. \quad (5.3)$$

If  $0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1$  satisfies  $b-a = h$ , then  $\int_a^b |x|^{-\beta} dx$  attains its maximum at  $a = 0$  and  $b = h$ . Consequently, we have

$$\|f : \mathcal{M}_{2\beta}^2(\mu)\| \leq \sup_{0 \leq h \leq 1} h^{1/2-1/2\beta} \left( \int_0^h |x|^{-\beta} dx \right)^{1/2\beta} = (1-\beta)^{-1/2\beta} < \infty. \quad (5.4)$$

Thus Claim 5.2 is proved. □

*Proof of Claim 5.3.* By definition of  $I_{1/2}f$ , we have  $I_{1/2}f(x) = \int_0^1 (dy/\sqrt{y|x-y|})$ . Changing the variables, we can rewrite the integral as  $I_{1/2}f(x) = \int_0^{1/x} (dz/\sqrt{z|1-z|})$ . With  $x < 1$  in mind, we decompose

$$\begin{aligned} I_{1/2}f(x) &= \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} + \int_1^{1/x} \frac{dz}{\sqrt{z(z-1)}} \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} + \int_1^{1/x} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(z-1)}} - \frac{1}{z} \right) dz + \int_1^{1/x} \frac{dz}{z} \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} + \int_1^{1/x} \frac{dz}{\sqrt{z^2(z-1)}(\sqrt{z} + \sqrt{z-1})} + \log \frac{1}{x}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

The integrals of the last formula remain bounded since

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}}, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{z^2(z-1)}(\sqrt{z} + \sqrt{z-1})} \tag{5.6}$$

are Lebesgue-integrable on  $(0, 1)$  and  $(1, \infty)$ , respectively. As a consequence,  $\log(1/x)$  and  $I_{1/2}f(x)$  differ by some absolute constant for all  $x \in (0, 1)$ .

Finally, let us see (5.1). By virtue of the triangle inequality,  $(\int_0^1 I_{1/2}f(x)^{\beta s} dx)^{1/\beta s}$  can be bounded from below by

$$\left( \int_0^1 \left( \log \frac{1}{x} \right)^{\beta s} dx \right)^{1/\beta s} - C_1 \geq \left( \int_0^{e^{-s}} \left( \log \frac{1}{x} \right)^{\beta s} dx \right)^{1/\beta s} - C_1 \geq c_{\beta s} - C_1. \tag{5.7}$$

As a result, Claim 5.3 is proved. □

COROLLARY 5.4. (1) *One has*

$$\|I_{1/2}\|_{\mathcal{M}_{\beta p}^p(\mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\beta s}^s(\mu)} \sim s, \tag{5.8}$$

where the parameters  $p, s, \beta$  satisfy

$$0 < \beta < 1, \quad 0 < p < 2, \quad 0 < s < \infty, \quad \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{2}, \tag{5.9}$$

where the implicit constants in  $\sim$  depend only on  $\beta$ .

(2) *Let  $0 < \beta, \rho < 1$ , and  $\lambda > 0$ . Then*

$$\sup_Q \left[ \int_Q \left[ \exp \left( \lambda \left| \frac{I_{1/2}f(x)}{\|f : \mathcal{M}_{\beta 2}^2(\mu)\|} \right|^{1/\rho} \right) - 1 \right] \frac{d\mu(x)}{\mu(2Q)^{1-\beta}} \right] = \infty. \tag{5.10}$$

*In particular, Theorem 4.8 is sharp in the sense that the conclusion of Theorem 4.8 fails if  $\Phi$  is replaced by  $\Psi(x) = \exp(x^{1/\rho}) - 1$ .*

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