Solution to a conjecture on the Hardy operator minus the identity and a new class of minimal rearrangement invariant spaces

## Javier Soria

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We give a positive answer to a conjecture of N. Kruglyak and E. Setterqvist about the norm of the Hardy operator minus the identity on decreasing functions.

- Joint work with S. Boza [JFA, 2011]

This study leads us to consider a new class of minimal rearrangement invariant spaces, for which we also establish some functional properties.

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$$Sf(t)=\frac{1}{t}\int_0^t f(r)\,dr.$$

on monotone functions has its origins in the works of Ariño-Muckenhoupt (TAMS, 1990) and Sawyer (Studia Math., 1990), extending the classical Hardy's inequalities:

If  $\alpha > -1$ ,  $p > \alpha + 1$ , and  $p \ge 1$ , then

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{x}\int_0^x f(t)\,dt\right)^p x^\alpha\,dx \le \left(\frac{p}{p-\alpha-1}\right)^p\int_0^\infty f(x)^p\,x^\alpha\,dx$$

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## Motivation:

Boundedness of the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator

$$Mf(x) = \sup_{x \in Q} \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_{Q} |f(y)| \, dy,$$

on weighted Lorentz spaces:

$$\Lambda^{p}(w) := \bigg\{ f : \bigg( \int_{0}^{\infty} (f^{*}(t))^{p} w(t) dt \bigg)^{1/p} < \infty \bigg\}.$$

Since  $(Mf)^* \approx S(f^*)$  (F. Riesz, Wiener, Herz), then

$$M: \Lambda^p(w) \to \Lambda^p(w),$$

if and only if (weighted Hardy's inequalities on monotone functions),

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{x}\int_0^x f(t)\,dt\right)^p w(x)\,dx \le C\int_0^\infty f(x)^p\,w(x)\,dx,\quad f\downarrow$$

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$$r^p\int_r^\infty rac{w(x)}{x^p}\,dx\leq C\int_0^rw(x)\,dx.$$

If  $w \in B_p$  we denote by  $||w||_{B_p}$  the best constant in the above inequality.

#### Theorem (Ariño-Muckenhoupt)

$$S: L^p_{dec}(w) \to L^p(w)$$
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In recent years many authors have considered the study of the difference operator

 $f^{**} - f^* = S(f^*) - \mathrm{Id}(f^*).$ 

This is equivalent to considering the Hardy operator minus the Identity acting on decreasing functions, and measures the oscillation of the function *f*.

Finding good estimates for this operator has applications to, e.g., Sobolev-type embeddings and the Pólya–Szegö symmetrization principle.

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$$\|\mathcal{S} - \operatorname{Id}\|_{L^p_{\operatorname{dec}}} = \frac{1}{(p-1)^{1/p}},$$

and conjectured that the result would be true for any  $p \ge 2$ .

#### Theorem (Boza – S. [JFA, 2011])

Let  $p \ge 2$  and w be a weight in the  $B_p$ -class satisfying that

$$r^{p-1}\int_r^\infty \frac{w(x)}{x^p}\,dx,$$

is a decreasing function of r > 0. Then,

$$\|\mathcal{S}f - f\|_{L^p(w)} \le \|w\|_{B_p}^{1/p} \|f\|_{L^p_{
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- $w \in B_p$  is a necessary condition for the boundedness of  $S \text{Id} : L^p_{\text{dec}}(w) \to L^p_{\text{dec}}$ .
- There are examples of weights *w* not satisfying that  $r^{p-1} \int_{r}^{\infty} \frac{w(x)}{x^{p}} dx$  is a decreasing function for which the result is false.
- If 1 there are also counterexamples.
- However, assuming only that  $w \in B_1$ ,

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It is yet an open problem to determine the norm of S on  $L_{dec}^{p}(w)$ :

$$\|S\|_{L^p_{dec}(w)} = \sup_{f\downarrow} \frac{\left(\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{t}\int_0^t f(x)\,dx\right)^p w(t)\,dt\right)^{1/p}}{\left(\int_0^\infty f^p(t)w(t)\,dt\right)^{1/p}}.$$

It is known that, for  $p \ge 1$ ,

 $(1 + \|w\|_{\rho})^{1/\rho} \le \|S\|_{L^{\rho}_{dec}(w)} \le 1 + \|w\|_{\rho}.$ 

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Let X be a rearrangement invariant space (r.i.) in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ; that is, a Banch function space satisfying:

• 
$$\chi_E \in X$$
, for every  $0 < |E| < \infty$ .

- ② If  $0 < |E| < \infty$  and  $f \in X$ , then  $\left| \int_{E} f(x) dx \right| \le C_{E} ||f||_{X}$ . ③ If  $0 < f_{p} \uparrow f$ , then  $||f_{p}||_{X} \uparrow ||f||_{X}$ .
- If f and g are equimeasurable, then  $||f||_X = ||g||_X$ .

Equimeasurable means with the same distribution function:

$$\lambda_f(t) = |\{|f| > t\}| = |\{|g| > t\}| = \lambda_g(t).$$

- Lebesgue spaces *L<sup>p</sup>*.
- Weighted Lorentz spaces  $\Lambda^{p}(w)$ .
- Orlicz spaces.

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The fundamental function of X is defined as

$$\varphi_X(t) = \|\chi_E\|_X, \qquad |E| = t.$$

This function plays an important role in the theory. For example if we define the (minimal) Lorentz space:

$$\Lambda(X) = \Lambda_{\varphi_X} = \bigg\{ f; \|f\|_{\Lambda(X)} = \int_0^\infty f^*(t) \, d\varphi_X(t) < \infty \bigg\},$$

and the (maximal) Marcinkiewicz space:

$$M(X) = M_{\varphi_X} = \left\{ f; \|f\|_{M(X)} = \sup_{t>0} S(f^*)(t)\varphi_X(t) < \infty \right\},$$

then

$$\Lambda(X) \subset X \subset M(X).$$

For example, if  $X = L^p$ , 1 , then

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We are now interested in studying the norm of S – Id on an r.i. space X, for the *n*-dimensional Hardy operator, acting on radially decreasing functions f:

$$S_n f(x) = \frac{1}{|B(0,|x|)|} \int_{B(0,|x|)} f(y) \, dy.$$

Using that

$$S_n f(x) - f(x) = \frac{1}{v_n |x|^n} \int_{f(x)}^{\infty} \lambda_f(t) dt,$$

(where  $\lambda_f(t) = |\{x : |f(x)| > t\}|$ ), then

$$\|S_nf-f\|_X \leq \int_0^\infty v_n^{-1}\lambda_f(t) \left\|\frac{1}{v_n^{-1}\lambda_f(t)+|\cdot|^n}\right\|_X dt.$$

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$$\|\mathcal{S}_n f - f\|_X \leq \int_0^\infty v_n^{-1} \lambda_f(t) \left\| \frac{1}{v_n^{-1} \lambda_f(t) + |\cdot|^n} \right\|_X dt.$$

Hence, it is natural to study the class of functions for which the right-hand side is finite [Studia Math., 2010], that we call R(X):

$$\|f\|_{R(X)} = \int_0^\infty v_n^{-1} \lambda_f(t) \left\| \frac{1}{v_n^{-1} \lambda_f(t) + \left|\cdot\right|^n} \right\|_X dt < +\infty.$$

It can be proved that the norm on R(X) is equal to:

$$\|f\|_{R(X)} = \|f\|_{\Lambda_{W_X}} = \int_0^\infty W_X(\lambda_f(t)) \, dt < +\infty,$$

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## Theorem (Rodríguez – S. [PEdMS, 2012])

• TFAE:

•  $R(X) \neq \{0\}.$ 

- g\*(s) = 1/(1 + s) ∈ X.
   (L<sup>1,∞</sup> ∩ L<sup>∞</sup>) ⊂ X.
- $R(X) \subset \Lambda(X)$ .
- If  $\overline{\varphi}_X(s) = \sup_{t>0} \frac{\varphi_X(st)}{\varphi_X(t)}$  and  $\overline{\beta}_X = \inf_{s>1} \frac{\log \overline{\varphi}_X(s)}{\log s}$  is the upper fundamental index of *X*:

$$\Lambda(X)=R(X)\iff \overline{\beta}_X<1,$$

• 
$$R(L^1) = \{0\}$$

• 
$$R(L^p) = L^{p,1} = \Lambda(L^p), 1$$

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If φ<sub>X</sub>(s) = sup<sub>t>0</sub> φ<sub>X</sub>(st)/φ<sub>X</sub>(t) and β<sub>X</sub> = inf<sub>s>1</sub> log φ<sub>X</sub>(s)/log s is the upper fundamental index of X:

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 It is well-known that Λ<sup>2</sup> = Λ ∘ Λ = Λ and hence Λ ∘ R = R. However there are examples showing that R<sup>2</sup> = R ∘ R ≠ R: If Φ(t) = t/log(1 + t), then

$$R(M_{\Phi}) = L^1 \cap L^{\infty}$$
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where

$$\|f\|_{M_{\Phi}} = \sup_{t>0} f^{**}(t)\Phi(t).$$

In fact, all the examples we know satisfy one of the following 3 possibilities:

R(X) = {0}.
 R(X) ≠ {0} and R<sup>2</sup>(X) = {0}.
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In fact, all the examples we know satisfy one of the following 3 possibilities:

• We know that if  $\overline{\beta}_X < 1$ , then  $R(X) = \Lambda(X)$  and hence  $\overline{\beta}_X = \overline{\beta}_{R(X)} < 1$ , but we do not know whether the converse is true:

If 
$$\overline{\beta}_{R(X)} < 1$$
,

$$\overline{\beta}_X = \overline{\beta}_{R(X)}?$$

Or, does there exist X with  $\overline{\beta}_X = 1$  but  $\overline{\beta}_{R(X)} < 1$ ?



• By definition, if *f* is decreasing,

 $\|Sf - f\|_X \le \|f\|_{R(X)},$ 

# and the inequality is sharp.

In particular, if  $1 , <math>1 \le q \le p$ , then

$$\|S_n f - f\|_{L^{p,q}} \le p^{-1/q'} \left( \frac{\Gamma(\frac{(p-1)q}{p})\Gamma(\frac{p+q}{p})}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right)^{1/q} \|f\|_{L^{p,1}},$$

and the inequality is sharp. Hence, for every p > 1:

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Since R is a monotone functor, then for every X r.i.,

$$R(X) = \Lambda_{W_X} \subset \Lambda_{\Psi} = R(L^1 + L^{\infty}),$$

and hence,  $W_X(t) \ge C\Psi(t) = t \log(1 + 1/t)$ .

We are now interested in studying when a given Lorentz space  $\Lambda_{\varphi}$  belongs to the range of *R*; i.e., there exists an *X* such that

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Let  $\varphi$  be a quasiconcave function with  $\varphi(t) \ge Ct \log(1 + 1/t)$ , and let

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where  $M_{\widetilde{\varphi}}$  is the Marcinkiewicz space

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- Our "conjecture" is that the equality Λ<sub>φ</sub> = R(M<sub>φ̃</sub>) is going to be always true.
- It can be proved that  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} < 1 \iff \varphi \approx \widetilde{\varphi}$ . Hence, if  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} < 1$ then  $R(M_{\widetilde{\varphi}}) = R(M_{\varphi}) = R(\Lambda_{\varphi}) = \Lambda_{\varphi}. \quad \checkmark$

• Examples for the case  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} = 1$ :

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 $R(M_{\widetilde{\varphi}}) = L^1 \cap L^\infty = \Lambda_{\varphi}.$ 

- Our "conjecture" is that the equality Λ<sub>φ</sub> = R(M<sub>φ̃</sub>) is going to be always true.
- It can be proved that  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} < 1 \iff \varphi \approx \widetilde{\varphi}$ . Hence, if  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} < 1$ then  $R(M_{\widetilde{\varphi}}) = R(M_{\varphi}) = R(\Lambda_{\varphi}) = \Lambda_{\varphi}.$   $\checkmark$

• Examples for the case  $\overline{\beta}_{\varphi} = 1$ :

• If  $\varphi(t) = t \log(1 + 1/t)$ , then  $\widetilde{\varphi}(t) \approx \min(1, t)$  and

$$R(M_{\widetilde{arphi}}) = R(L^1 + L^\infty) = \Lambda_{arphi}.$$
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If  $\Psi(t) = t/\log(1+t)$ , then  $\widetilde{\Psi}(t) \approx t/\log^2(1+\sqrt{t})$  and

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## Σας ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας!

### Thanks for your attention!

# ¡Gracias por vuestra atención!