

## COMPOSITION OF OPERATORS IN ORLICZ SPACES

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**ABSTRACT.** In this work we find sharp conditions for boundedness on Orlicz spaces of the composition of  $j$  operators, each one being of restricted weak type  $(p, p)$  for some  $p > 1$ , and of strong type  $(\infty, \infty)$ . Particularly, we find necessary and sufficient conditions to obtain modular inequalities for the  $j$ -times composition of the Cesàro maximal function of order  $\alpha$ . With this approach we treat a kind of strong maximal function related to Cesàro averages over  $n$ -dimensional rectangles.

**1. Introduction.** Let  $(\Omega, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $\mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$  the space of measurable functions. Let  $j \in \mathbf{N}$  and  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_j$ , be sublinear operators defined on  $\mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$ , so that all of them are of strong type  $(\infty, \infty)$  and, for a given  $p \geq 1$ , of restricted weak type  $(p, p)$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq j$ , that is, there exist constants  $A_k$  and  $B_k$  such that for any measurable function  $f \in \mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$

$$\|T_k f\|_\infty \leq A_k \|f\|_\infty,$$

and

$$\mu_{T_k f}(s) \leq \left( \frac{B_k}{s} \int_0^\infty \mu_f^{1/p} \right)^p \quad \text{for all } s > 0,$$

where  $\mu_g$  denotes the distribution of a measurable function  $g$ .

It is well known that for a sublinear operator  $T$  these two conditions can be expressed in just one inequality, namely,

$$(1) \quad \mu_{Tf}(t) \leq \left( \frac{C}{t} \int_{t/C}^\infty \mu_f(s)^{1/p} ds \right)^p \quad \text{for all } t > 0,$$

where  $C$  is a constant independent of  $f$  and  $t$ .

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