

## RIESZ TRANSFORMS ON $Q$ -TYPE SPACES WITH APPLICATION TO QUASI-GEOSTROPHIC EQUATION

Pengtao Li and Zhichun Zhai

**Abstract.** By an equivalent characterization of Morrey space associated with the fractional heat semigroup, we establish a relation between the generalized  $Q$ -type spaces and Morrey spaces. By this relation, in this paper, we prove the boundedness of the singular integral operators on the  $Q$ -type spaces  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . As an application, we get the well-posedness and regularity of the quasi-geostrophic equation with initial data in  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we consider the boundedness of a class of singular integral operators on the  $Q$ -type space  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Here  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a space defined as the set of all measurable functions with

$$\sup_I (l(I))^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_I \int_I \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta+2}} dx dy < \infty,$$

where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\beta \in (1/2, 1)$ , the supremum is taken over all cubes  $I$  with the edge length  $l(I)$  and the edges parallel to the coordinate axes in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . This space is introduced in [18] to study the well-posedness of the generalized Navier-Stokes equations. For  $\beta = 1$ ,  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  coincides with the classical space  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$  which is introduced in [13]. Furthermore, if  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ,  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) = BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

As a new space between  $W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$  has been studied extensively by many authors since 1990s. In 1995, on the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$  in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ , R. Aulaskari, J. Xiao and R. Zhao first introduced a class of Möbius invariant analytic function spaces,  $Q_p(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $p \in (0, 1)$ . The class  $Q_p(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $p \in (0, 1)$  can be

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seen as subspaces and subsets of  $BMOA$  and  $UBC$  on  $\mathbb{D}$ . Since then, many studies on  $Q_p(\mathbb{D})$  and their characterization have been done. We refer the readers to [1], [2], [21] and [29] and the reference therein. In order to generalize  $Q_p(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $p \in (0, 1)$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , in [13], M. Essen, S. Janson, L. Peng and J. Xiao introduced a class of Q-type spaces of several real variables,  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . Later, in [12], G. Dafni and J. Xiao established the Carleson measure characterization of  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . For more information of the spaces  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and their application, we refer to [28], [12] and [13]. For the generalization of  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we refer to [18] and [30].

It is easy to see that a function  $f(x)$  belongs to  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if

$$\sup_I (l(I))^{-2n} \int_I \int_I |f(x) - f(y)|^2 dx dy < \infty.$$

It can be also proved that if  $\alpha \in (-\infty, 0)$  and  $\beta = 1$ ,  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) = BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . The similarity on the structure of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  shows that the two spaces share some common properties. It is well-known that the singular integral operators  $T$  are bounded on the Hardy space  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . By the duality, the boundedness of  $T$  on  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is obvious. Owing to the relation between  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , it is natural to consider the boundedness of  $T$  on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Unlike the case of Hardy space  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , the boundedness of  $T$  on the dual space of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is not clear. So we cannot follow the former method to get the boundedness of  $T$  on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Alternatively, we apply an equivalent characterization of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  associated to the fractional heat semigroup  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}$  and establish a relation between  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and some Morrey spaces  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . For  $\beta = 1$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , such relation was established by Z. Wu and C. Xie in [27]. In [28], J. Xiao gave another proof which is based on the Carleson measure characterization of  $Q_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and Morrey spaces. Hence our result can be seen as a generalization of those in [27] and [28]. By this relation, the boundedness of  $T$  on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  can be deduced by that on  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . See Section 3.

As an application, we consider the well-posedness and regularity of the quasi-geostrophic equations with initial data in  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In recent years, Q-type spaces have been applied to the study of the fluid equations by several authors. For example, in [28], J. Xiao introduced a new critical space  $Q_\alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  which is derivatives of  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and got the well-posedness of Navier-Stokes equations with initial data in  $Q_\alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . When  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $Q_\alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n) = BMO^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , his result generalized the well-posedness obtained by Koch and Tataru in [17]. In [18], inspiring by [28] and the scaling invariance, we introduced a new Q-type space  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\max\{\frac{1}{2}, \alpha\} < \beta < 1$  such that  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . We proved the well-posedness and regularity of the generalized Navier-Stokes equations with some initial data in the space  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . For  $\beta = 1$ , our space  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  becomes  $Q_\alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  in [28]. So our result can be regarded as a generalization of those of [17] and [28].

In Section 4, we consider the two-dimensional subcritical quasi-geostrophic dissipative equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  with small initial data in  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \theta + (-\Delta)^\beta u + (u \cdot \nabla) \theta = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}_+, \alpha > 0; \\ u = \nabla^\perp (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \theta; \\ \theta(0, x) = \theta_0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2, \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ , the scalar  $\theta$  represent the potential temperature, and  $u$  is the fluid velocity.

The equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  are important models in the atmosphere and ocean fluid dynamics. It was proposed by P. Constantin and A. Majda, etc that the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  can be regarded as low dimensional model equations for mathematical study of singularity in smooth solutions of unforced incompressible three dimensional fluid equations. See e.g. [10, 14, 15, 22, 23] and the references therein.

Owing to the importance in mathematical and geophysical fluid dynamics mentioned above, the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  have been intensively studied. Some important progress has been made. We refer the readers to [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16, 25, 26] etc. for details.

In [19], F. Marchand and P. G. Lemarié-Rieusset get the well-posedness of the solutions to the equation  $(DQG)_1$  with the initial data in  $BMO^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ . However, because the space  $BMO^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  is invariant under the scaling:  $u_{0,\lambda}(x) = \lambda u_0(\lambda x)$ , we see that under the fractional scaling associated to  $0 < \beta < 1$ ,

$$(1.2) \quad \theta_\lambda(t, x) = \lambda^{2\beta-1} \theta(\lambda^{2\beta} t, \lambda x) \text{ and } \theta_{0,\lambda}(x) = \lambda^{2\beta-1} \theta_0(\lambda x),$$

the space  $BMO^{-1}$  is not invariant.

The above observation implies that if we want to generalize the result in [19] to the general case  $\beta < 1$ , we should choose a new space  $X^\beta$  which satisfies the following two properties. At first, the space  $X^\beta$  should be invariant under the scaling (1.2). Secondly,  $BMO^{-1}$  is a “special” case of  $X^\beta$  for  $\beta = 1$ .

It is proved in [18] that the space  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is exactly such a space. Therefore we could apply the approach in [18] to the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  and get the well-posedness and regularity of the solution to the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  with  $\beta > 1/2$ .

It should be pointed out that the scope of  $\beta$  in the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  is depended upon the definition of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In [18], we proved that the parameters  $\{\alpha, \beta\}$  should satisfy the condition:  $\max\{\alpha, \frac{1}{2}\} < \beta < 1$  and  $\alpha < \beta$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . It is easy to see that  $\beta > \frac{1}{2}$ .

In [24], the authors proved the global existence of the solutions of the subcritical quasi-geostrophic equations with small size initial data in the Besov norms spaces  $\dot{B}_\infty^{1-2\beta,\infty}$ . However our result cannot be deduced by the existence result in [24]. In addition, by the method in [18], we consider the regularity of the solutions to the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$ .

The organization of this paper is as follows. In Section 2 we state some preliminary knowledge, notation and terminology that will be used throughout this paper. In Section 3 we consider the boundedness of a class of singular integral operators on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In Section 4 we give a well-posedness of the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  with the initial data in the spaces  $Q_\alpha^{\beta, -1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this paper the symbols  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  denote the sets of all complex numbers, integers and natural numbers, respectively. For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space, with Euclidean norm denoted by  $|x|$  and the Lebesgue measure denoted by  $dx$ .  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  is the upper half-space  $\{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n+1} : t > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$  with Lebesgue measure denoted by  $dt dx$ .

A ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with center  $x$  and radius  $r$  will be denoted by  $B = B(x, r)$ ; its Lebesgue measure is denoted by  $|B|$ . A cube in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  will always mean a cube in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with sides parallel to the coordinate axes. The sidelength of a cube  $I$  will be denoted by  $l(I)$ . Similarly, its volume will be denoted by  $|I|$ .

The symbol  $U \lesssim V$  means that there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that  $U \leq CV$ .  $U \approx V$  means  $U \lesssim V$  and  $V \lesssim U$ . For convenience, the positive constants  $C$  may change from one line to another and usually depend on the dimension  $n$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and other fixed parameters.

The characteristic function of a set  $A$  will be denoted by  $1_A$ . For  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , the space  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  consists of all smooth functions with compact support in  $\Omega$ . The Schwartz class of rapidly decreasing functions and its dual will be denoted by  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , respectively. For a function  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\hat{f}$  means the Fourier transform of  $f$ .

The generalized  $Q$ -type spaces  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  are introduced as a substitute of the classical  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$  under the fractional dilation:  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda^{2\beta-1} f(\lambda x)$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1$ . This space is defined as follows.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $-\infty < \alpha$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$ . Then  $f \in Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if

$$\sup_I (l(I))^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_I \int_I \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta+2}} dx dy < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over all cubes  $I$  with the edge length  $l(I)$  and the edges parallel to the coordinate axes in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

For  $\beta = 1$  and  $\alpha > -\infty$ , the above space becomes  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , which was introduced by M. Essen, S. Janson, L. Peng and J. Xiao in [13]. In 2004, G. Dafni and J. Xiao give the Carleson measure characterization of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  using a new type of tent spaces in [12]. Following the same idea, in order to study the  $Q_\alpha$  initial data problem for the

generalized Naiver-Stokes equations, we consider the Carleson measure characterization of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  in [18]. Precisely, we get the following result.

Let  $\phi(x)$  be a  $C^\infty$  real-valued function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying the properties

$$(2.1) \quad \phi(x) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n), |\phi(x)| \lesssim (1+|x|)^{-(n+1)}, \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \phi(x) dx = 0, \phi_t(x) = t^{-n} \phi\left(\frac{x}{t}\right).$$

In [18], we proved that  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  has the following Carleson measure characterization.

**Theorem 2.2.** ([18, p. 2462]). *Given  $\phi$  be a function satisfying the above conditions (2.1). Let  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ .  $f \in Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if*

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r \in (0, \infty)} r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^r \int_{|y-x|<r} |f * \phi_t(y)|^2 t^{-(1+2(\alpha-\beta+1))} dt dy < \infty,$$

that is,  $d\mu_{f, \phi, \alpha, \beta}(t, x) = |(f * \phi_t)(x)|^2 t^{-1-2(\alpha-\beta+1)} dt dx$  is a  $1 - 2(\alpha + \beta - 1)/n$ -Carleson measure.

The main tool for the Carleson measure characterization of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is the following fractional tent spaces.

**Definition 2.3.** For  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ , we define  $T_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$  be the class of all Lebesgue measurable functions  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  with

$$\|f\|_{T_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty} = \sup_{B \subset \mathbb{R}^n} \left( \frac{1}{|B|^{1-2(\alpha+\beta-1)/n}} \int_{T(B)} |f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dt dy}{t^{1+2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \right)^{1/2} < \infty.$$

In order to define the dual of  $T_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$ , we need the following  $T_{\alpha, \beta}^1$ -atoms.

**Definition 2.4.** For  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ , a function  $a$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  is said to be a  $T_{\alpha, \beta}^1$ -atom provided there exists a ball  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $a$  is supported in the tent  $T(B)$  and satisfies

$$\int_{T(B)} |a(t, y)|^2 \frac{dt dy}{t^{1-2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \leq \frac{1}{|B|^{1-2(\alpha+\beta-1)/n}}.$$

We denote by  $d\Lambda_{n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}^\infty$  the  $n - 2(\alpha + \beta - 1)$  dimensional Hausdorff capacity of a set  $E$  and refer to [12] for the details of the Hausdorff capacity. For  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $\Gamma(x) = \{(y, t) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n+1} : |x - y| < t\}$  be the cone at  $x$ . Define the non-tangential maximal function  $N(f)$  of a measurable function  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  by

$$N(f)(x) := \sup_{(y, t) \in \Gamma(x)} |f(y, t)|.$$

The dual of  $T_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$  is defined as follows.

**Definition 2.5.** For  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ , the space  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^1$  consists of all measurable functions  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  with

$$\|f\|_{T_{\alpha,\beta}^1} = \inf_{\omega} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}} |f(x, t)|^2 \omega^{-1}(x, t) \frac{dt dx}{t^{1-2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \right)^{1/2} < \infty,$$

where the infimum is taken over all nonnegative Borel measurable functions  $\omega$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$  with

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} N\omega d\Lambda_{n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}^\infty \leq 1$$

and with the restriction that  $\omega$  is allowed to vanish only where  $f$  vanishes.

The above tent spaces and their dualities can be seen as the generalization of the usual one. For  $\beta = 1$ ,  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  and  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^1$  coincide with  $T_\alpha^\infty$  and  $T_\alpha^1$ , respectively which are introduced in [12]. For  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 1$ ,  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  becomes the classical tent space  $T^\infty$  in [9].

Let  $\phi$  satisfy the conditions (2.1). For a function  $F$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$ , denote by  $\Pi_\phi$  the operator

$$(2.2) \quad \Pi_\phi(F) = \int_0^\infty F(\cdot, t) * \phi_t \frac{dt}{t}.$$

In [18], we proved that  $\Pi_\phi$  is a bounded and surjective operator from  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  to  $Q_\alpha^\beta$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** ([18, Theorem 3.20]). *Consider the operator  $\Pi_\phi$  defined by (2.2). The operator  $\Pi_\phi$  is a bounded and surjective operator from  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  to  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . More precisely, if  $F \in T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  then the righthand side of the above integral converges to a function  $f \in Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\|f\|_{Q_\alpha^\beta} \lesssim \|F\|_{T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty}$ , and any  $f \in Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  can be thus represented.*

### 3. BOUNDEDNESS OF THE SINGULAR INTEGRAL OPERATORSON $Q_\alpha^\beta$ -TYPE SPACES $Q_\alpha^\beta$

In this section, we will prove a class of singular integral operators are bounded on  $Q_\alpha^\beta$ -type spaces  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Our method is based on the characterizations of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and the Morrey space  $\mathcal{L}_{2,\lambda}$  associated to the fractional heat semigroup  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}$ . Before we state the main results in this section, we give a relation between  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , a class of conformally invariant Sobolev spaces and the fractional  $BMO$  type space  $BMO^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $\beta \in (1/2, 1)$ . Then  $f \in BMO^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if

$$\sup_I \left( (l(I))^{4\beta-4-2n} \int_I \int_I |f(x) - f(y)|^2 dx dy \right)^{1/2} < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over all cubes  $I$  with the edge length  $l(I)$  and the edges parallel to the coordinate axes in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

In [28], J.Xiao proved that  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a space between the Sobolev space  $W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In this section we prove that a similar relation holds for  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $BMO^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . For this purpose, we introduce a conformally invariant Sobolev space  $CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $\beta \in (1/2, 1)$  and  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .  $f \in CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if

$$\|f\|_{CIS_\beta} = \sup_I \left( |I|^{\frac{4\beta-2-n}{n}} \int_I |\nabla f(x)|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over all cubes  $I$  with the edge length  $l(I)$  and the edges parallel to the coordinate axes in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . If

$$E_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) = \left\{ f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n) : \|f\|_{E_\beta} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla f(x)|^{\frac{n}{2\beta-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{2\beta-1}{n}} \right\},$$

then

$$E_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq BMO^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

*Proof.* If  $n \geq 2$ , by Hölder’s inequality, we have for any cube  $I \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\int_I |\nabla f(x)|^2 dx \leq \left( \int_I |\nabla f(x)|^{\frac{n}{2\beta-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{4\beta-2}{n}} |I|^{\frac{4\beta-n-2}{n}}.$$

This implies  $E_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Now we prove  $CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . For a cube  $I \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , denote by  $cI$  the cube with volume being  $c^n|I|$  and the center of  $I$ . For  $f \in CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

$$|f(z+y) - f(y)| \leq \int_0^1 |\nabla f(y+tz)| |z| dt.$$

Hence we can get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \int_I \int_I \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta+2}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \left( \int_I \int_I \left( \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} \right)^2 \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left( \int_I \int_{|x-y| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} \left( \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|} \right)^2 |x - y|^{2\beta-n-2\alpha} dx dy \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left( \int_I \int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} \left( \frac{|f(z+y) - f(y)|}{|z|} \right)^2 |z|^{2\beta-n-2\alpha} dz dy \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left( \int_I \int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} \left( \int_0^1 |\nabla f(y + tz)| dt \right)^2 |z|^{2\beta-n-2\alpha} dz dy \right)^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \int_0^1 \left( \int_I \int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} |\nabla f(y + tz)|^2 |z|^{2\beta-n-2\alpha} dz dy \right)^{1/2} dt \\
 &\leq \int_0^1 \left( \int_{(1+\sqrt{n})I} \int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} |\nabla f(\omega)|^2 |z|^{2\beta-n-2\alpha} dz d\omega \right)^{1/2} dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

Because

$$\int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} |z|^{2\beta-2\alpha-n} dz \leq \int_{|z| < \sqrt{n}|I|^{1/n}} |z|^{2\beta-2\alpha-1} d|z| \leq C|I|^{\frac{2\beta-2\alpha}{n}},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left( \int_I \int_I \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta+2}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} &\leq C \int_0^1 \left[ \int_{(1+\sqrt{n})I} |\nabla f(\omega)|^2 |I|^{\frac{2\beta-2\alpha}{n}} d\omega \right]^{1/2} dt \\
 &= C|I|^{\frac{\beta-\alpha}{n}} \left( \int_{(1+\sqrt{n})I} |\nabla f(\omega)|^2 d\omega \right)^{1/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left( |I|^{\frac{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2}{n}} \int_I \int_I \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{n+2\alpha-2\beta+2}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} \\
 &\leq |I|^{\frac{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2}{2n}} |I|^{\frac{\beta-\alpha}{n}} \left( \int_{(1+\sqrt{n})I} |\nabla f(\omega)|^2 d\omega \right)^{1/2} \\
 &\leq |I|^{\frac{4\beta-n-2}{2n}} \left( \int_{(1+\sqrt{n})I} |\nabla f(\omega)|^2 d\omega \right)^{1/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Definition 2.1, we know that  $CIS_\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 3.3. ■

Recall that Morrey space  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is defined as follows.

$$(3.1) \quad \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}} = \sup_I \left( (l(I))^{-\lambda} \int_I |f(x) - f_I|^p dx \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

We see that if  $\lambda = n$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n) = BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  by John-Nirenberg inequality. Owing to  $BMO(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a special case of  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , it is natural to ask if there exists a general relation between  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . In [28], by a characterization of  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$



associated to the semigroup  $e^{-t(-\Delta)}$ , J. Xiao established such a relation. Precisely he proved that for  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ,  $Q_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n) = (-\Delta)^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Following Xiao's idea in [28], we will prove that a similar result holds for the space  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . At first we prove an equivalent characterization of  $\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  via the semigroup  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}$ . Here  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}$  denotes the convolution operator defined by Fourier transform:

$$e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} f(\xi) = e^{-t|\xi|^{2\beta}} \widehat{f}(\xi).$$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Given  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ . Let  $f$  be a measurable complex-valued function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $f \in \mathcal{L}_{2,n-\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if*

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r \in (0, \infty)} r^{2\gamma-n} \int_0^r \int_{|y-x|<r} \left| \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y) \right|^2 t dy dt < \infty.$$

*Proof.* Take  $(\psi_0)_t(x) = t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta}(x, 0)$  with the Fourier symbol  $(\widehat{(\psi_0)_t(x)})(\xi) = t|\xi|e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}}$ . For a ball  $B = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : |y-x| < r\}$ , the mean of  $f$  on  $2B$  is defined by  $f_{2B} = \frac{1}{|2B|} \int_{2B} f(x) dx$ . We split  $f$  into  $f = f_1 + f_2 + f_3$ , where  $f_1 = (f - f_{2B})\chi_{2B}$ ,  $f_2 = (f - f_{2B})\chi_{(2B)^c}$  and  $f_3 = f_{2B}$ . Because

$$\int (\psi_0)_t(x) dx = \int t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta}(x, 0) dx = 0,$$

we have

$$t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y) = (\psi_0)_t * f(y) = (\psi_0)_t * f_1(y) + (\psi_0)_t * f_2(y).$$

It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^r \int_B |(\psi_0)_t * f_1(y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t} &\lesssim \int_0^r \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(\psi_0)_t * f_1(y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t} \\ &= \left\| \left( \int_0^\infty |(\psi_0)_t * f_1(\cdot)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^2(dy)}. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $(\psi_0)_1 = \nabla e^{-(-\Delta)^\beta}$ , we have  $\int (\psi_0)_1(x) dx = 1$  and  $(\psi_0)_1$  belongs to the Schwartz class  $\mathcal{S}$ . Also the function

$$G(f) = \left( \int_0^\infty |(\psi_0)_t * f_1(y)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{1/2}$$

is a Littlewood-Paley  $g$ -function. So we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^r \int_B |(\psi_0)_t * f_1(y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t} &\lesssim \int_{2B} |f(y) - f_{2B}|^2 dy \\ &\lesssim r^{n-2\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now we estimate the term associated with  $f_2(y)$ . Because

$$\begin{aligned} |(\psi_0)_t * f_2(y)| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} (y-z) f_2(z) dz \right| \\ &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus 2B} \left| t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} (y-z) \right| |f(z) - f_{2B}| dz \\ &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus 2B} \frac{t |f(z) - f_{2B}|}{t^{n+1} (1 + t^{-1} |z-y|)^{n+1}} dz, \end{aligned}$$

where in the last inequality we have used the following estimate:

$$\left| \nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} (x, y) \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{t^{\frac{n+1}{2\beta}}} \frac{1}{(1 + t^{-\frac{1}{2\beta}} |x-y|)^{n+1}}.$$

Set  $B_k = B(x, 2^k)$ . For every  $(t, y) \in (0, r) \times B(x, r)$ , we have  $0 < t < r$  and  $|x-y| < r$ . If  $z \in B_{k+1} \setminus B_k$ , we have  $|x-y| < |x-z|/2$  and

$$\begin{aligned} |(\psi_0)_t * f_2(y)| &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus 2B} \frac{t |f(z) - f_{2B}|}{(t + |z-x|)^{n+1}} dz \\ &\lesssim t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2^{k+1}r)^n}{(2^k r)^{n+1}} \left( \frac{1}{(2^{k+1}r)^n} \int_{2^{k+1}B} |f(z) - f_{2B}|^2 dz \right)^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim t \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} \left( \frac{1}{(2^{k+1}r)^n} \int_{2^{k+1}B} |f(z) - f_{2^{k+1}B}|^2 dz \right)^{1/2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} |f_{2^{k+1}B} - f_{2B}| \right] \\ &=: t(S_1 + S_2). \end{aligned}$$

For  $S_1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} \left( \frac{(2^{k+1}r)^{n-2\gamma}}{(2^{k+1}r)^n} \frac{1}{(2^{k+1}r)^{n-2\gamma}} \int_{2^{k+1}B} |f(z) - f_{2^{k+1}B}|^2 dz \right)^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} r^{-\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2, n-2\gamma}} \\ &\lesssim tr^{-1-\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2, n-2\gamma}}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $S_2$ , we have

$$S_2 \lesssim t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} \left[ |f_{2B} - f_{4B}| + \dots + |f_{2^k B} - f_{2^{k+1}B}| \right].$$

For any  $j$  with  $2 \leq j \leq k$ , it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} |f_{2^j B} - f_{2^{j+1} B}| &\lesssim \frac{1}{|2^j B|} \int_{2^j B} |f(z) - f_{2^{j+1} B}| dz \\ &\lesssim \left( \frac{1}{|2^j B|} \int_{2^j B} |f(z) - f_{2^{j+1} B}|^2 dz \right)^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim r^{-\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$S_2 \lesssim t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k r} k \cdot r^{-\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}} \lesssim t r^{-1-\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}.$$

Therefore, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^r \int_B |(\psi_0)_t * f_2(y)|^2 t^{-1} dy dt &\lesssim \int_0^r \int_B t^2 r^{-2\gamma-2} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}^2 dy dt \\ &\lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}^2 r^{-2\gamma-2} |B| \int_0^r t dt \\ &\lesssim r^{n-2\gamma} \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}}^2. \end{aligned}$$

For the converse, let  $S(I) = \{(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}, 0 < t < l(I), x \in I\}$  if  $f$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_I [l(I)]^{2\gamma-n} \int_{S(I)} \left| t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y) \right|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t} \\ &= \sup_I [l(I)]^{2\gamma-n} \int_{S(I)} \left| \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y) \right|^2 t dy dt < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Denote

$$\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}} F(t, y) (\psi_0)_t(x - y) \frac{dy dt}{t}.$$

We will prove that if

$$\|F\|_{C_\gamma} = \sup_I \left( [l(I)]^{2\gamma-n} \int_{S(I)} |F(t, y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t} \right)^{1/2} < \infty,$$

then for any cube  $J \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) - (\Pi_{\psi_0} F)_J|^2 dx \lesssim [l(J)]^{n-2\gamma} \|F\|_{C_\gamma}^2.$$

For this purpose, we split  $F$  into  $F = F_1 + F_2 = F|_{S(2J)} + F|_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus S(2J)}$  and get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_1(x)|^2 dx &\leq \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_1(x)|^2 dx \\ &\leq \int_{S(2J)} |F(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t} \\ &\lesssim [l(J)]^{n-2\gamma} \|F\|_{C_\gamma}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now we estimate the term associated with  $F_2$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_1(x)|^2 dx &= \int_J \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}} (\psi_0)_t(x-y) F_2(t, y) t^{-1} dydt \right|^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \int_J \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^{n+1} \setminus S(2J)} |(\psi_0)_t(x-y)| |F_2(t, y)| \frac{dydt}{t} \right)^2 dx \\ &= \int_J \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty \int_{S(2^{k+1}J) \setminus S(2^k J)} |(\psi_0)_t(x-y)| |F_2(t, y)| \frac{dydt}{t} \right)^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $(\psi_0)_t$  satisfies the estimate

$$|(\psi_0)_t(x-y)| \lesssim \frac{t}{t^{n+1}(1+t^{-1}|x-y|)^{n+1}},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_1(x)|^2 dx &\lesssim \int_J \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty \int_{S(2^{k+1}J) \setminus S(2^k J)} \frac{t}{[t+2^k l(J)]^{n+1}} |F_2(t, y)| \frac{dydt}{t} \right)^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \int_J \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty (2^k l(J))^{-(n+1)} \int_{S(2^{k+1}J) \setminus S(2^k J)} |F_2(t, y)| dydt \right)^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \|F\|_{C_\gamma}^2 [l(J)]^{n-2\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) - (\Pi_{\psi_0} F)_J|^2 dx &\leq \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x)|^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_1(x)|^2 dx + \int_J |\Pi_{\psi_0} F_2(x)|^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \|F\|_{C_\gamma}^2 [l(J)]^{n-2\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

Because

$$\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) = \int (\psi_0)_t * (\psi_0)_t * f \frac{dt}{t},$$

by Calderón’s reproducing formula, we have  $\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) = f(x)$ , that is,  $f(x) = \Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) \in \mathcal{L}_{2,n-2\gamma}$ . This completes the proof of Lemma 3.4. ■

**Theorem 3.5.** For  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\max\{\alpha, \frac{1}{2}\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ , we have

$$Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n) = (-\Delta)^{-\frac{(\alpha-\beta+1)}{2}} \mathcal{L}_{2, n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

*Proof.* For  $f \in \mathcal{L}_{2, n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}$ , let  $F(t, y) = t^{\alpha-\beta+1} t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y)$ . By Lemma 3.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & r^{2(\alpha+\beta-1)-n} \int_0^r \int_{|y-x|<r} |F(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{1+2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \\ & \lesssim r^{2(\alpha+\beta-1)-n} \int_0^r \int_{|y-x|<r} |t^{\alpha-\beta+1} t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{1+2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \\ & \lesssim r^{2(\alpha+\beta-1)-n} \int_0^r \int_{|y-x|<r} |t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} f(y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t} \\ & \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2, n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $F \in T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$ . By Theorem 2.6,  $\Pi_{\psi_0}$  is bounded from  $T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty$  to  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Therefore we have

$$\|f\|_{Q_\alpha^\beta} = \|\Pi_{\psi_0} F\|_{Q_\alpha^\beta} \lesssim \|F\|_{T_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty}.$$

Because  $\widehat{F}(t, \xi) = t^{\alpha-\beta+2} |\xi| e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} \widehat{f}(\xi)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\Pi_{\psi_0} F}(\xi) &= \int_0^\infty \widehat{F}(t, \xi) (\widehat{\psi_0})_t(\xi) \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha-\beta+2} |\xi| e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} t |\xi| e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} \widehat{f}(\xi) \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= |\xi|^2 \widehat{f}(\xi) \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha-\beta+2} e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $t^{2\beta} = s$  and  $|\xi|^{2\beta} s = u$ . We can get

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\Pi_{\psi_0} F}(\xi) &= \int_0^\infty s^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+2}{2\beta}} e^{-2s|\xi|^{2\beta}} s^{\frac{1}{2\beta}-1} ds \widehat{f}(\xi) |\xi|^2 \\ &= \widehat{f}(\xi) |\xi|^2 \int_0^\infty (u|\xi|^{-2\beta})^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+3}{2\beta}-1} e^{-u} |\xi|^{-2\beta} du \\ &= \widehat{f}(\xi) |\xi|^2 |\xi|^{-(\alpha-\beta+3)+2\beta-2\beta} \int_0^\infty u^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+3}{2\beta}-1} e^{-2u} du. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\frac{1}{2} < \beta < 1$  and  $0 < \alpha < \beta$ , the integral  $\int_0^\infty u^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+3}{2\beta}-1} e^{-2u} du < \infty$ . We denote it by  $C_{\alpha,\beta}$  and get

$$\widehat{\Pi_{\psi_0} F}(\xi) = C_{\alpha,\beta} \widehat{f}(\xi) |\xi|^{-(\alpha-\beta+1)}.$$

By the inverse Fourier transform, we have

$$\Pi_{\psi_0} F(x) = C_{\alpha,\beta} (-\Delta)^{-\frac{\alpha-\beta+1}{2}} f(x).$$

Conversely, suppose  $g \in Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Set  $G(t, y) = t^{1-(\alpha-\beta+1)} \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} g(y)$ . We have, by the equivalent characterization of  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  (see [18] for details),

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( [l(I)]^{2(\alpha+\beta-1)-n} \int_{S(I)} \left| t^{1-2(\alpha-\beta+1)} \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} g(y) \right|^2 \frac{dydt}{t} \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \left( [l(I)]^{2(\alpha+\beta-1)-n} \int_{S(I)} \left| t \nabla e^{-t^{2\beta}(-\Delta)^\beta} g(y) \right|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{1+2(\alpha-\beta+1)}} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim \|g\|_{Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)}, \end{aligned}$$

that is,  $G(t, y) \in C_{\alpha+\beta-1}$ . By Lemma 3.4, we have  $\Pi_{\psi_0} G(t, y) \in \mathcal{L}_{2, n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}$ . Hence we get

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{f}(\xi) &= \widehat{\Pi_{\psi_0} G}(t, \xi) \\ &= \int_0^\infty t |\xi| e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} t^{1-(\alpha-\beta+1)} |\xi| e^{-t^{2\beta}|\xi|^{2\beta}} \widehat{g}(\xi) \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= C_{\alpha,\beta} |\xi|^{1+(\alpha-\beta)} \widehat{g}(\xi) \\ &= C_{\alpha,\beta} ((-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+1}{2}} g)(\xi). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $f(x) = C_{\alpha,\beta} (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha-\beta+1}{2}} g$ . This completes the proof of this theorem. ■

Based on the above theorem, we can deduce the boundedness of the convolution singular integral operators on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  directly and state this result as the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $T$  be a singular operator defined by*

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

where the kernel  $K(x)$  satisfies

$$|\partial_x^\gamma K(x)| \leq A_\gamma |x|^{-n-\gamma}, \quad (\gamma > 0).$$

Or equivalently, let  $\widehat{Tf}(\xi) = m(\xi)\widehat{f}(\xi)$ , where the symbol  $m(\xi)$  satisfies

$$|\partial_\xi^\gamma m(\xi)| \leq A_{\gamma'} |\xi|^{-\gamma}$$

for all  $\gamma$ . Suppose  $\alpha > 0, \max\{\alpha, \frac{1}{2}\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . We have  $T$  is bounded on the  $Q$ -type spaces  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

*Proof.* It is well-known that the singular integral operator  $T$  is bounded on the Morrey space  $\mathcal{L}_{2, n-2(\alpha+\beta-1)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Moreover as a convolution operator,  $T$  can commute with the fractional Laplace operator  $(-\Delta)^{-\frac{(\alpha-\beta+1)}{2}}$ . By Theorem 3.5, we complete the proof of this theorem. ■

Specially, taking  $T = R_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  as the Riesz transforms, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.7.** *Suppose  $\alpha > 0, \max \alpha, \frac{1}{2} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the Riesz transforms  $R_j = \partial_j(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on the  $Q$ -type spaces  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .*

**Remark 3.8.** There exists another method to prove Theorem 3.6. In fact we can get the boundedness of  $T$  on  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  directly by its characterization associated to  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}$ . In Section 4, this method can be applied to study the well-posedness of the equations  $(DQG)_\beta$  with the initial data in  $Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . See Lemma 4.5.

#### 4. WELL-POSEDNESS AND REGULARITY OF QUASI-GEOSTROPHIC EQUATION

In this section, we study the well-posedness and regularity of quasi-geostrophic equation with initial data in the space  $Q_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^2)$ . We introduce the definition of  $X_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Definition 4.1.** The space  $X_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^n)$  consists of the functions which are locally integrable on  $(0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $\sup_{t>0} t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|f(t, \cdot)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} < \infty$  and

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2, r>0} r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |f(t, y)|^2 + |R_1 f(t, y)|^2 + |R_2 f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} < \infty,$$

where  $R_j, j = 1, 2$  denote the Riesz transforms in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

For the quasi-geostrophic dissipative equations

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \theta = -(-\Delta)^\beta + \partial_1(\theta R_2 \theta) - \partial_2(\theta R_1 \theta), \\ \theta(0, x) = \theta_0(x), \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ . The solution to equations (4.1) can be represented as

$$u(t, x) = e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} u_0 + B(u, u),$$

where the bilinear form  $B(u, v)$  is defined by

$$B(u, v) = \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (\partial_1(v R_2 u) - \partial_2(v R_1 u)) ds.$$

In order to prove the well-posedness, we need the following preliminary lemmas. For their proofs, we refer the readers to Lemma 4.8 and Lemma 4.9 in [18].

**Lemma 4.2.** ([18, Lemma 4.8 ]). *Given  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . For a fixed  $T \in (0, \infty]$  and a function  $f(t, x)$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{1+n}$ , let  $A(t) = \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (-\Delta)^\beta f(s, x) ds$ . Then*

$$(4.2) \quad \int_0^T \|A(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \int_0^T \|f(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}}.$$

**Lemma 4.3.** ([18, Lemma 4.9]). *For  $\beta \in (1/2, 1)$  and  $N(t, x)$  defined on  $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $A(N)$  be the quantity*

$$A(\alpha, \beta, N) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r \in (0, 1)} r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |f(t, x)| \frac{dxdt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}}.$$

*Then for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  there exists a constant  $b(k)$  such that the following inequality holds:*

$$(4.3) \quad \int_0^1 \left\| t^{\frac{k}{2}} (-\Delta)^{\frac{k\beta+1}{2}} e^{-\frac{t}{2}(-\Delta)^\beta} \int_0^t N(s, \cdot) ds \right\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \leq b(k) A(\alpha, \beta, N) \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |N(s, x)| \frac{dxds}{s^{\alpha/\beta}}.$$

**Remark 4.4.** Similarly when  $k = 0$ , we can prove the following inequality:

$$(4.4) \quad \int_0^1 \left\| (-\Delta)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} \int_0^t N(s, \cdot) ds \right\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim A(\alpha, \beta, N) \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |N(s, x)| \frac{dxds}{s^{\alpha/\beta}}.$$

**Lemma 4.5.** *Assume  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . Let  $R_j, j = 1, 2$  be the Riesz transforms. Then for any  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \sup_{r>0} r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \\ & \lesssim \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r>0} r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We split  $f(t, y)$  into

$$f(t, y) = f_0(t, y) + \sum_{k=1}^\infty f_k(t, y),$$

where  $f_0(t, y) = f(t, y)\chi_{B(x_0, 2r)}(y)$  and  $f_k(t, y)\chi_{B(x_0, 2^{k+1}r) \setminus B(x_0, 2^k r)}(y)$ . We have



$$\begin{aligned} & \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right) \\ \leq & \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f_0(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right) \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f_k(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right) \\ =: & M_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} M_k. \end{aligned}$$

By the  $L^2$  boundedness of Riesz transforms  $R_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} M_0 & \lesssim \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right) \\ & \lesssim C \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r > 0} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now we estimate the terms  $M_k$ . We only need to estimate the integral as follows.

$$I = \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f_k(t, y)|^2 dy.$$

As a singular integral operator,

$$R_j g(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{x_j - y_j}{|x_j - y_j|^{n+1}} g(y) dy.$$

By Hölder's inequality, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} I & = \int_{|y-x_0|<r} \left| \int_{2^k r \leq |z-x_0| < 2^{k+1} r} \frac{y_j - z_j}{|y-z|^{n+1}} f(t, z) dz \right|^2 dy \\ & \lesssim \int_{|y-x_0|<r} \left( \frac{1}{(2^k r)^n} \int_{|z-x_0| < 2^{k+1} r} |f(t, z)| dz \right)^2 dy \\ & \lesssim \frac{1}{2^{kn}} \int_{|z-x_0| < 2^{k+1} r} |f(t, z)|^2 dz. \end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$M_k = \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j f_k(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\lesssim \left( 2^{-k(2\alpha-n+2\beta-2)} \frac{1}{2^{kn}} (2^k r)^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|z-x_0| < 2^{k+1}r} |f(t, z)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\lesssim \left( 2^{-k(2\alpha-n+2\beta-2)} \frac{1}{2^{kn}} \right)^{1/2} \sup_{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, r > 0} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|z-x_0| < r} |f(t, z)|^2 \frac{dzdt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we can get

$$\begin{aligned} &M_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} M_k \\ &\lesssim \left[ 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k(\alpha+\beta-1)} \right] \sup_{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, r > 0} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|z-x_0| < r} |f(t, z)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 4.5. ■

Now we give the main result of this section.

**Theorem 4.6.** (Well-posedness).

- (i) *The subcritical quasi-geostrophic equation (4.1) has a unique small global mild solution in  $(X_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^2))^2$  for all initial data  $\theta_0$  with  $\nabla \cdot \theta = 0$  and  $\|u_0\|_{Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}}$  being small.*
- (ii) *For any  $T \in (0, \infty)$ , there is an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that the quasi-geostrophic equation (4.1) has a unique small mild solution in  $(X_\alpha^\beta(\mathbb{R}^2))^2$  on  $(0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^2$  when the initial data  $u_0$  satisfies  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$  and  $\|u_0\|_{(Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1})^2} \leq \varepsilon$ . In particular, for all  $u_0 \in \overline{(VQ_\alpha^{\beta,-1})^2}$  with  $\nabla \cdot u_0 = 0$ , there exists a unique small local mild solution in  $(X_{\alpha,T}^\beta)^2$  on  $(0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^2$ .*

*Proof.* By the Picard contraction principle we only need to prove the bilinear form  $B(u, v)$  is bounded on  $X_\alpha^\beta$ . We split the proof into two parts.

**Part I.**  $\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}$ -boundedness. The proof of this part has been given in [19]. For completeness, we give the details. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|B(u, v)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} &\lesssim \int_0^t \|e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (\partial_1(gR_2f) - \partial_2(gR_1f))\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} ds \\ &\lesssim \int_0^t \frac{C_\beta}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2\beta}} s^{1+(1-\frac{1}{\beta})}} s^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|u\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} s^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|v\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} ds \\ &\lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2\beta}} s^{1+(1-\frac{1}{\beta})}}. \end{aligned}$$

Because when  $\frac{1}{2} < \beta < 1$ ,

$$\int_0^{t/2} \frac{1}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2\beta}} s^{1+(1-\frac{1}{\beta})}} ds \lesssim t^{\frac{1}{2\beta}-1}$$

and

$$\int_{t/2}^t \frac{1}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2\beta}} s^{1+(1-\frac{1}{\beta})}} ds \lesssim t^{-2+\frac{1}{\beta}} \int_{t/2}^t \frac{1}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2\beta}}} ds \lesssim t^{\frac{1}{2\beta}-1}.$$

Then we can get

$$t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|B(u, v)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta},$$

where in the above estimates we have used the fact that  $\|R_j f\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} \lesssim \|f\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}}$  for  $f \in \dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}$ . In fact by Bernstein's inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_l \|\Delta_l R_j f\|_{L^\infty} &= \sum_l \|\partial_j (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \Delta_l f\|_{L^\infty} \\ &\lesssim \sum_l 2^l \|(-\Delta)^{-1/2} \Delta_l f\|_{L^\infty} \\ &\lesssim \sum_l 2^l 2^{-l} \|\Delta_l f\|_{L^\infty} \\ &\leq \|f\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by Young's inequality, we have

$$t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} u_0\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} \lesssim \|u_0\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{1-2\beta,\infty}} \leq \|u_0\|_{Q_\alpha^{\beta,-1}}.$$

**Part II.**  $L^2$ -boundedness. This part contributes to the operation of  $B(u, v)$  on the Carleson part of  $X_\alpha^\beta$ . We split again the estimate into two steps.

**Step I.** We want to prove the following estimate:

$$r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |B(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}.$$

By symmetry, we only need to deal with the term

$$\int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} [\partial_1(vR_1u)] ds = B_1(u, v) + B_2(u, v) + B_3(u, v),$$

where

$$B_1(u, v) = \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} \partial_1[(1 - 1_{r,x})vR_1u] ds,$$

$$B_2(u, v) = (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \partial_1 \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (-\Delta)((-\Delta)^{1/2}(I - e^{-s(-\Delta)^\beta})(1_{r,x})vR_1u) ds$$

and

$$B_3(u, v) = (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \partial_1 (-\Delta)^{1/2} e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} \int_0^t (1_{r,x}) v R_1 u ds.$$

For  $B_1$ , it can be proved that the fractional heat kernel satisfies the following estimate ([20]):

$$(4.5) \quad |\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}(x, y)| \lesssim \frac{1}{t^{\frac{n+1}{2\beta}}} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{|x-y|}{t^{1/2\beta}}\right)^{n+1}} \lesssim \frac{1}{(t^{2\beta} + |x-y|)^{n+1}}.$$

For  $0 < t < r^{2\beta}$ , taking  $n = 2$  in (4.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |B_1(u, v)(t, x)| \\ & \lesssim \int_0^t \int_{|z-x| \geq 10r} \frac{|R_1 u(s, z)| |v(s, z)|}{|x-z|^{2+1}} dz ds \\ & \lesssim \left( \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|z-x| \geq 10r} \frac{|R_1 u(s, z)|^2}{|x-z|^3} dz ds \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|z-x| \geq 10r} \frac{|v(s, z)|^2}{|x-z|^3} dz ds \right)^{1/2} \\ & := I_1 \times I_2. \end{aligned}$$

For  $I_1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 & \lesssim \left( \sum_{k=3}^\infty \frac{1}{(2^k r)^3} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-z| \leq 2^{k+1} r} |R_1 u(s, x)|^2 ds dx \right)^{1/2} \\ & \lesssim \left( \sum_{k=3}^\infty \frac{1}{(2^k r)^3} (2^k r)^{2\alpha+2\beta-2} (2^k r)^{2-2\beta} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-z| \leq 2^{k+1} r} |R_1 u(s, x)|^2 \frac{ds dx}{s^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \\ & \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \left( \sum_{k=3}^\infty \frac{1}{2^{k(2\beta-1)}} \frac{1}{r^{2\beta-1}} \right)^{1/2} \\ & \lesssim \left( \frac{1}{r^{2\beta-1}} \right)^{1/2} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can get  $I_2 \lesssim \left(\frac{1}{r^{2\beta-1}}\right)^{1/2} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}$  and  $|B_1(u, v)| \lesssim \frac{1}{r^{2\beta-1}} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y| < r} |B_1(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} & \lesssim \frac{1}{r^{4\beta-2}} r^2 \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \\ & \lesssim \frac{1}{r^{4\beta-2}} r^2 r^{2\beta-2\alpha} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \\ & \lesssim r^{2-2\alpha-2\beta+2} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2, \end{aligned}$$

where in the second inequality we have used the fact  $0 < \alpha < \beta$ . That is to say

$$r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |B_1(u, v)(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2.$$

For  $B_2$ , by the  $L^2$ -boundedness of Riesz transform, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |B_2(u, v)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ & \lesssim \int_0^{r^\beta} \left\| \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (-\Delta)((-\Delta)^{-1/2}(I - e^{-s(-\Delta)^\beta})(1_{r,x})vR_1u)ds \right\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ & \lesssim \int_0^{r^\beta} \left\| \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)(-\Delta)^\beta} (-\Delta)^\beta ((-\Delta)^{1/2-\beta}(I - e^{-s(-\Delta)^\beta})(1_{r,x})vR_1u)ds \right\|_{L^2}^2 \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ & \lesssim \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} t^{2-\frac{1}{\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |R_1u(t, y)|^2 |v(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ & \lesssim \left( \sup_{t>0} t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|R_1u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \right) \left( \sup_{t>0} t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|v(t, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \right) \\ & \quad \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |R_1u(t, y)||v(t, y)| \frac{dtdy}{t^{\alpha/\beta}}. \end{aligned}$$

On one hand, by Bernstein's inequality, we have

$$\|R_1u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \|R_1u(t, \cdot)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}} \lesssim \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}}.$$

Then we get

$$\sup_{t>0} t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|R_1u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^\infty} \lesssim \sup_{t>0} t^{1-\frac{1}{2\beta}} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}}.$$

On the other hand, we have, by Hölder's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |R_1u(t, y)||v(t, y)| \frac{dtdy}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ & \lesssim \left( \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |R_1u(t, y)|^2 \frac{dtdy}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |v(t, y)|^2 \frac{dtdy}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \\ & \lesssim r^{2-2\alpha-2\beta+2} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we get

$$\int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |B_2(u, v)(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim r^{2-2\alpha-2\beta+2} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2 \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}^2.$$

For  $B_3(u, v)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} |B_3(u, v)(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\
 = & \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x|<r} \left| (-\Delta)^{-1/2} \partial_1 (-\Delta)^{1/2} e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} \left( \int_0^t (1_{r,x}) v R_1 u dh \right) \right|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\
 \lesssim & \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \left\| (-\Delta)^{1/2} e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} \left( \int_0^t (1_{r,x}) v R_1 u dh \right) \right\| \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\
 \lesssim & r^{2-2\alpha+6\beta-2} \left( \int_0^1 \|M(r^{2\beta}s, r \cdot)\|_{L^1} \frac{ds}{s^{\alpha/\beta}} \right) C(\alpha, \beta, f) \\
 \lesssim & r^{2-2\alpha+6\beta-2} r^{2-4\beta} r^{2-4\beta} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \\
 \lesssim & r^{2-2\alpha-2\beta+2} \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}.
 \end{aligned}$$

**Step II.** For  $j = 1, 2$ , we want to prove

$$(4.6) \quad r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |R_j B(u, v)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta},$$

where  $R_j$  are the Riesz transforms  $\partial_j(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$ . Similar to Step I, we can split  $B(u, v)$  into  $B_i(u, v)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We denote by  $A_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$

$$(4.7) \quad A_i := r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y|<r} |R_j B_i(u, v)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}.$$

In order to estimate the term  $A_1$ , we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.7.** For  $\beta > 0$ , if we denote by  $K_j^\beta$  the kernel of the operator  $e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} R_j$ , we have

$$(1 + |x|)^{n+|\alpha|} \partial^\alpha e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta} R_j \in L^\infty.$$

*Proof.* By the Fourier transform, we have  $K_j^\beta = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\frac{\xi_j}{|\xi|} e^{-|\xi|^{2\beta}})$ , where  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}$  denotes the inverse Fourier transform. Because

$$\left[ \partial^\alpha K_j^\beta(x) \right]^\wedge(\xi) = \frac{\xi_j}{|\xi|} |\xi|^\alpha e^{-|\xi|^{2\beta}} \in L^1,$$

we have

$$|\partial^\alpha K_j^\beta(x)| \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left| \frac{\xi_j}{|\xi|} |\xi|^\alpha e^{-|\xi|^{2\beta}} \right| d\xi \leq C.$$

Then  $\partial^\alpha K_j^\beta(x) \in L^\infty$ . If  $|x| \leq 1$ , we have

$$(1 + |x|)^{n+|\alpha|} |K_j^\beta(x)| \lesssim C_\alpha |K_j^\beta(x)| \lesssim C.$$

If  $|x| > 1$ , by Littlewood-Paley decomposition and write

$$K_j^\beta(x) = (Id - S_0)K_j^\beta + \sum_{l < 0} \Delta_l K_j^\beta,$$

where  $(Id - S_0)K_j^\beta \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\Delta_l K_j^\beta = 2^{2l} \omega_{j,l}(2^l x)$  where  $\widehat{\omega_{j,l}}(\xi) = \psi(\xi) \frac{\xi_j}{|\xi|} e^{-|2^l \xi|^{2\beta}} \in L^1$ . Then  $\omega_{j,l}(x)_{(l < 0)}$  are a bounded set in  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . So we have

$$(1 + 2^l |x|)^N 2^{l(2+|\alpha|)} |\partial^\alpha \Delta_l K_j^\beta(x)| \lesssim C_N$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial^\alpha S_0 K_j^\beta(x)| &\lesssim C \sum_{2^l |x| \leq 1} 2^{l(2+|\alpha|)} + \sum_{2^l |x| > 1} 2^{l(2+|\alpha|-N)} |x|^{-N} \\ &\lesssim C |x|^{-(2+|\alpha|)}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 4.7 ■

Now we complete the proof of Theorem 4.6. In Lemma 4.7, we take  $\alpha = 1$  and get

$$\left| \partial_x R_j e^{-t(-\Delta)^\beta}(x, y) \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{(t^{\frac{1}{2\beta}} + |x - y|)^{n+1}}.$$

Similar to the proof in Part I, we can get

$$A_1 := r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y| < r} |R_j B_1(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}.$$

By Lemma 4.5, we know

$$\begin{aligned} &r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0| < r} |R_j f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ &\lesssim \sup_{r > 0, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n} r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0| < r} |f(t, y)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}}. \end{aligned}$$

By the above estimate, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A_i &:= r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y| < r} |R_j B_i(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \\ &\lesssim r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y| < r} |B_i(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 2, 3$ . Following the estimate to  $B_i, i = 2, 3$ , we can get

$$A_i := r^{2\alpha-2+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|x-y| < r} |R_j B_i(u, v)|^2 \frac{dy dt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \lesssim \|u\|_{X_\alpha^\beta} \|v\|_{X_\alpha^\beta}.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.6. ■

Following the method applied in Section 5 of [18], we can easily get the regularity of the solution to the quasi-geostrophic equations (4.1). So we only state the result and omit the details of the proof. For convenience of the study, we introduce a class of spaces  $X_\alpha^{\beta,k}$  as follows.

**Definition 4.8.** For a nonnegative integer  $k$  and  $\beta \in (1/2, 1]$ , we introduce the space  $X_\alpha^{\beta,k}$  which is equipped with the following norm:

$$\|u\|_{X_\alpha^{\beta,k}} = \|u\|_{N_{\alpha,\infty}^{\beta,k}} + \|u\|_{N_{\alpha,C}^{\beta,k}},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{N_{\alpha,\infty}^{\beta,k}} &= \sup_{\alpha_1+\dots+\alpha_n=k} \sup_t t^{\frac{2\beta-1+k}{2\beta}} \|\partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_{x_n}^{\alpha_n} u(\cdot, t)\|_{\dot{B}_\infty^{0,1}}, \\ \|u\|_{N_{\alpha,C}^{\beta,k}} &= \sup_{\alpha_1+\dots+\alpha_n=k} \sup_{x_0,r} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |t^{\frac{k}{2\beta}} \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_{x_n}^{\alpha_n} u(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^2 \sup_{\alpha_1+\dots+\alpha_n=k} \sup_{x_0,r} \left( r^{2\alpha-n+2\beta-2} \int_0^{r^{2\beta}} \int_{|y-x_0|<r} |R_j t^{\frac{k}{2\beta}} \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_{x_n}^{\alpha_n} u(t, y)|^2 \frac{dydt}{t^{\alpha/\beta}} \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we state the regularity result.

**Theorem 4.9.** Let  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\max\{\alpha, 1/2\} < \beta < 1$  with  $\alpha + \beta - 1 \geq 0$ . There exists an  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(n)$  such that if  $\|u_0\|_{Q_{\alpha;\infty}^{\beta,-1}} < \varepsilon$ , the solution  $u$  to equations (4.1) verifies:

$$t^{\frac{k}{2\beta}} \nabla^k u \in X_\alpha^{\beta,0} \text{ for any } k \geq 0.$$

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Pengtao Li  
Department of Mathematics  
Shantou University  
Shantou, Guangdong 515063  
P. R. China  
E-mail: ptli@stu.edu.cn

Zhichun Zhai  
Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences  
632 CAB  
University of Alberta Edmonton  
Alberta T6G 2G1  
Canada  
E-mail: zhichun1@ualberta.ca