

# Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities in weighted Orlicz spaces equipped with a nonnecessarily doubling measure\*

Agnieszka Kałamajska

Katarzyna Pietruska-Pałuba

## Abstract

We obtain Gagliardo-Nirenberg interpolation inequalities of the form  $\|\nabla u\|_X \leq C_1 \sqrt{\|u\|_Y \|\nabla^{(2)} u\|_Z} + C_2 \|u\|_Y$ , where  $X, Y, Z$  are Orlicz spaces related to a single measure which may not satisfy the doubling condition. Some examples among homogeneous, logarithmic and exponential spaces are given.

## 1 Introduction

Gagliardo-Nirenberg interpolation inequalities [18, 40]

$$\|\nabla^{(k)} u\|_q \leq \|u\|_p^{1-k/m} \|\nabla^{(m)} u\|_r^{k/m}, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\frac{1}{q} = (1 - \frac{k}{m})\frac{1}{p} + \frac{k}{m}\frac{1}{r}$ , and  $\nabla^{(l)} u = (D^\alpha u)_{|\alpha|=l}$ , play an important role in the *a priori* estimates in linear and nonlinear PDE's and their applications to the regularity theory.

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Physical motivations (see e.g. [1, 2, 11, 14, 42] and references therein) indicate a need to consider also PDE's with solutions not in the classical Sobolev spaces, but in Sobolev-like spaces related to Orlicz norms rather than  $L^p$  norms. Consequently it is natural to look for an extension of (1.1), where  $L^p$ -norms would be replaced with Orlicz norms.

On the other hand, it is motivated by numerous areas of mathematics (e.g. the theory of functions, imbedding theorems, spectral theory of differential operators, boundary value problems, regularity theory, degenerate P.D.E's, singular integral equations, theory of analytic functions) to investigate Sobolev spaces with respect to a general measure, not only the Lebesgue measure. We refer to [17, 26, 27, 30, 31, 38, 39, 44] and references therein for the theory and the motivations. Hence it is also natural to ask for extensions of (1.1) to  $L^s$  spaces equipped with a general Radon measure. For results in this direction we refer e.g. to [7, 10, 12, 13, 20, 21], Theorem 1 in Section 1.4.7 of [35] and their references.

In this paper we obtain the following variant of inequality (1.1) in the case  $k = 1$ ,  $m = 2$ :

$$\|\nabla u\|_X \leq C_1 \sqrt{\|u\|_Y \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_Z} + C_2 \|u\|_Y, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $X, Y, Z$  are weighted Orlicz spaces, (if the measure is finite then  $Y$  is a proper subspace of  $X$ ) and constants  $C_1, C_2$  are independent of  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . The exact statement is given in Theorem 4.1, see also Remark 4.4.

There has been already a fair number of papers on Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities (see e.g. [8, 9, 16, 28, 32, 33, 36, 37]), but not much is known on inequalities similar to (1.2) within Orlicz spaces, even in the nonweighted case. Previous research in this area comes from two sources. First, Bang and coauthors [3, 4, 5, 6] examined the nonweighted case for one-variable function, within a single Orlicz space  $L^M(dx)$ . We have recently obtained variants of (1.2) (with possibly different Orlicz spaces) in the nonweighted case [22, 23, 24], and also in the weighted case [25], for measures which necessarily satisfy the doubling condition  $\mu(2B) \leq C\mu(B)$  ( $B$  is an arbitrary ball,  $2B$  is the ball with the same center as  $B$  and twice the radius, and the constant  $C$  does not depend on  $B$ ).

Here we extend some of techniques originating in [22] and generalized in [23]. Those techniques allowed previously to prove inequalities of the form (1.2), with  $C_2 = 0$ , in nonweighted Orlicz spaces.

The class of weights covered by our approach seems to be rather big. We require them to be absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mu(dx) = w(x)dx$ , and further  $w(x) = \exp(-\varphi(x))$ , with  $\varphi \in C^1$  and  $|\nabla\varphi|$  in the given Orlicz space with respect to the measure  $\mu$ . See Theorem 4.1 for the precise statement. In particular exponential-type measures  $\mu(dx) = C_1 \exp(-C_2|x|^\alpha)dx$  where  $C_1, C_2 > 0, \alpha \geq 0$ , so also the Gaussian measure  $\mu(dx) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi n}} \exp(-|x|^2/2)dx$ , are in many cases allowed in our inequalities (see Remarks 6.1 and 6.3). Moreover, typical weights considered in this paper do not satisfy the doubling condition and so the result obtained in this paper is complementary to the results obtained by independent techniques in the paper [25], where all the measures considered were doubling.

As nondoubling measures seem to be of separate interest (see e.g. [19],[34],[41] for

some recent results), we hope to contribute in this direction too.

Some examples illustrating our approach within homogeneous Young functions, and also within functions of logarithmic and exponential type, are given in Section 6.

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 Notation

Throughout the paper, the symbol  $\nabla^{(k)}u$  stands for the  $k$ -th gradient of the mapping  $u: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ : the vector  $(D^\alpha u)_{|\alpha|=k}$ . If  $A$  is a vector or a matrix, by  $|A|$  we denote its Euclidean norm induced by the standard scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , while  $A^t$  stands for its transposition.

By  $c$  we denote a general constant which can change even within the same line. Upper case letters  $C, D, \dots$  are reserved for those constants whose value is relevant. By  $s^*$  we denote the Hölder conjugate to a number  $s > 1$ . We use the standard notation:  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  stands for smooth compactly supported functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $L_{\text{loc}}^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $W_{\text{loc}}^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for the  $L^p$  and Sobolev spaces respectively defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . In general the  $L^p$  spaces (if not said otherwise then defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) subordinated to the measure  $\mu$  will be denoted by  $L^p(\mu)$ .

If  $f$  is defined on the set  $\Omega$ , then by  $f\chi_\Omega$  we denote this function extended by zero outside  $\Omega$ .

Now we recall some preliminary facts about Orlicz spaces, referring e.g. to [29] or [43] for details.

### 2.2 $N$ -functions

A function  $\Phi: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is called an  $N$ -function if it is differentiable, strictly convex,  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi(\lambda)/\lambda = 0$  and  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(\lambda)/\lambda = \infty$ .

Note that in particular every  $N$ -function  $\Phi$  satisfies  $\Phi(0) = \Phi'_+(0) = 0$ .

The *Legendre transform* of an  $N$ -function  $\Phi$ , denoted by  $\Phi^*$ , is defined as

$$\Phi^*(y) = \sup_{x \geq 0} [xy - \Phi(x)].$$

It is known that  $\Phi^*$  is also an  $N$ -function. The Legendre transform is an involution, i.e.  $(\Phi^*)^* = \Phi$ . Moreover, for every  $x, y \geq 0$  the Young inequality is satisfied:

$$xy \leq \Phi(x) + \Phi^*(y). \quad (2.1)$$

Functions  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi^*$  are called *mutually conjugate*.

**Definition 2.1** ( $\Delta_2$ -condition). *A differentiable function  $\Phi: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that  $\Phi(0) = 0$  satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition if and only if*

$$\lambda\Phi'(\lambda) \leq c\Phi(\lambda), \quad (2.2)$$

*with a positive constant  $c$  not depending on  $\lambda > 0$ .*

For an  $N$ -function  $\Phi$ , inequality (2.2) is equivalent to the doubling condition

$$\Phi(2\lambda) \leq c\Phi(\lambda), \quad (2.3)$$

with the constant  $c > 0$  not depending on  $\lambda$ .

We will use the following auxiliary functions: for a given  $N$ -function  $\Phi$ , we shall write

$$\Phi_1(\lambda) = \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda}, \quad \Phi_2(\lambda) = \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^2}, \quad \tilde{\Phi}(\lambda) = \frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}. \quad (2.4)$$

Observe that for any convex  $\Phi$  one has  $\Phi_2(\lambda) \leq \tilde{\Phi}(\lambda)$ , whereas for a function satisfying the  $\Delta_2$ -condition one has  $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda) \leq c\Phi_2(\lambda)$ , with  $c > 0$  independent of  $\lambda$ .

### 2.3 Weighted Orlicz spaces

Suppose that  $\mu$  is a positive Radon measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\Phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be an  $N$ -function. The weighted space  $L^\Phi(\mu)$  with respect to the measure  $\mu$  is, by definition, the function space

$$L^\Phi(\mu) \stackrel{def}{=} \left\{ f \text{ measurable: } \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi\left(\frac{|f(x)|}{K}\right) d\mu(x) \leq 1 \text{ for some } K > 0 \right\},$$

equipped with the Luxemburg norm

$$\|f\|_{(\Phi, \mu)} = \inf\{K > 0: \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi\left(\frac{|f(x)|}{K}\right) d\mu(x) \leq 1\}.$$

This norm is complete and turns  $L^\Phi(\mu)$  into a Banach space. Moreover, for  $\Phi(\lambda) = \lambda^p$  with  $p > 1$ , the space  $L^\Phi(\mu)$  coincides with the usual  $L^p(\mu)$  space.

We recall the following two properties of Young functionals: for every  $f \in L^\Phi(\mu)$  we have

$$\|f\|_{(\Phi, \mu)} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|f(x)|) d\mu(x) + 1, \quad (2.5)$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi\left(\frac{f(x)}{\|f\|_{(\Phi, \mu)}}\right) d\mu(x) \leq 1. \quad (2.6)$$

When  $\Phi$  satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition, then (2.6) becomes an equality.

### 2.4 Domination and comparison of norms

We say that the function  $\Phi$  dominates  $\Psi$  (symbolically:  $\Psi \prec \Phi$ ) if there exist two positive constants  $K_1, K_2$  such that

$$\Psi(\lambda) \leq K_1\Phi(K_2\lambda) \text{ for every } \lambda > 0. \quad (2.7)$$

We have:

$$\text{when } \Psi \prec \Phi, \text{ then } \|\cdot\|_{(\Psi, \mu)} \leq K\|\cdot\|_{(\Phi, \mu)}, \text{ with } K = K_2(K_1 + 1). \quad (2.8)$$

Functions  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are called equivalent (symbolically  $\Phi_1 \asymp \Psi$ ) when  $\Psi \prec \Phi$  and  $\Phi \prec \Psi$ . It is clear that equivalent  $N$ -functions give raise to equivalent Luxemburg norms.

If (2.7) holds for  $\lambda > C$ , with some positive  $C$ , then we say that  $\Phi$  dominates  $\Psi$  at infinity. As the example of homogeneous spaces  $L^p(dx)$  shows, it is not enough for (2.8) for the inclusion  $L^\Phi \subset L^\Psi$  to hold. However, when  $\mu(\mathbb{R}^n) < \infty$ , then the inclusion  $L^\Phi \subset L^\Psi$  is spared. Indeed, suppose  $u \in L^\Phi$ . Let  $s_0$  be such a number that  $\int \Phi(\frac{|u|}{s_0}) d\mu < +\infty$ . Then according to (2.7)

$$\begin{aligned} \int \Psi\left(\frac{|u|}{K_2 s_0}\right) d\mu &= \int_{\{|u| > K_2 s_0 C\}} \Psi\left(\frac{|u|}{K_2 s_0}\right) d\mu + \int_{\{|u| \leq K_2 s_0 C\}} \Psi\left(\frac{|u|}{K_2 s_0}\right) d\mu \\ &\leq K_1 \int \Phi\left(\frac{|u|}{s_0}\right) d\mu + \Psi(C)\mu(\mathbb{R}^n), \end{aligned}$$

which is finite, and therefore  $u \in L^\Psi(\mu)$ .

Also, if we restrict our attention to functions  $u$  with compact support, then the implication  $\{u \in L^\Phi(\mu)\} \Rightarrow \{u \in L^\Psi(\mu)\}$  remains true for any Radon measure  $\mu$ . This is so because any Radon measure is by definition locally finite.

### 2.5 Auxiliary estimates for $N$ -functions

We will need the following two lemmas applied previously in [23]. For the reader's convenience we submit their proofs.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Suppose  $\Phi$  is a nonnegative function such that  $\Phi(\lambda)/\lambda^\alpha$  is nondecreasing, where  $\alpha \geq 1$  is given. Then for any  $\lambda, \mu > 0$*

$$\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^\alpha} \mu^\alpha \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(\mu). \tag{2.9}$$

*Proof.* It can be readily seen: when  $\mu \leq \lambda$ , then  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^\alpha} \mu^\alpha \leq \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^\alpha} \lambda^\alpha = \Phi(\lambda) \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(\mu)$ , and when  $\lambda \leq \mu$ , then  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^\alpha} \leq \frac{\Phi(\mu)}{\mu^\alpha}$ , so that  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^\alpha} \mu^\alpha \leq \Phi(\mu) \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(\mu)$ . ■

This lemma applied for  $\alpha = 2$  yields the following result.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Suppose that  $\Phi$  is an  $N$ -function such that  $\Phi_2(\lambda) = \Phi(\lambda)/\lambda^2$  is nondecreasing. Let  $F : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a convex function with  $F(0) = 0$ . Then for any  $\lambda, \mu, \rho > 0$*

$$\Phi_2(\lambda)\mu\rho \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H(\mu) + J(\rho), \tag{2.10}$$

where  $H(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}\Phi(2F(\sqrt{\lambda}))$ ,  $J(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}\Phi(2F^*(\sqrt{\lambda}))$ .

*Proof.* (2.10) follows from (2.9), the Young inequality  $vw \leq F(v) + F^*(w)$ , and from the convexity of  $\Phi$  :

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_2(\lambda)\mu\rho &= \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^2}\mu\rho \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(\sqrt{\mu\rho}) \\ &\leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(F(\sqrt{\mu}) + F^*(\sqrt{\rho})) \\ &\leq \Phi(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\Phi(2F(\sqrt{\mu})) + \frac{1}{2}\Phi(2F^*(\sqrt{\rho})) \\ &= \Phi(\lambda) + H(\mu) + J(\rho). \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 2.1.** The particular choice  $F(\lambda) = F^*(\lambda) = \lambda^2/2$  in (2.10) results in the following inequality:

$$\Phi_2(\lambda)\mu\rho \leq \Phi(u) + \frac{\Phi(\mu) + \Phi(\rho)}{2}. \tag{2.11}$$

### 3 The basic lemma

We start with the following lemma. It extends Lemma 3.1 from [22] to the class of weighted Radon measures.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Suppose that  $\Phi: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is an  $N$ -function of class  $C^1((0, \infty))$  such that  $\Phi'(\lambda)/\lambda$  is bounded next to 0. Let  $\mu(dx) = w(x)dx$  be a weighted Radon measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , with weight function  $w(x) = \exp(-\varphi(x))$ , where  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then for every  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  one has*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla u|)d\mu \leq \alpha_n \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{\Phi}(|\nabla u|)|\nabla^{(2)}u| |u| d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_1(|\nabla u|)||u| |\nabla\varphi| d\mu, \tag{3.1}$$

where the functions  $\tilde{\Phi}, \Phi_1$  are defined by (2.4), and  $0 < \alpha_n < c\sqrt{n}$  with some constant  $c > 0$  independent of  $n$ .

*Proof.* Set  $\Omega = \text{supp}\nabla u$ , and let

$$I := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla u|)d\mu = \int_{\Omega} \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|^2} \langle \nabla u, \nabla u \rangle \exp(-\varphi) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \langle S(x), \nabla u \rangle dx,$$

where

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} \exp(-\varphi(x))(\Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)|\nabla u(x)|^{-2})\nabla u(x) & \text{for } x \in \Omega \\ 0 & \text{for } x \notin \Omega. \end{cases}$$

Let us show that  $S \in W^{1,1}(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$  (Sobolev space of vector-valued functions). By assumption we have  $\exp(-\varphi(x)) \in W_{loc}^{1,\infty}(\mathbf{R}^n)$  and  $S$  is supported in  $\Omega$ , a compact set. Therefore it suffices to show that

$$W(x) := \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)}{|\nabla u(x)|^2} \nabla u(x) \cdot \chi_\Omega(x)$$

belongs to the space  $W^{1,1}(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ . One possibility to see this is to consider the sequence of functions

$$W_\varepsilon(x) := \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)}{\varepsilon^2 + |\nabla u(x)|^2} \nabla u(x), \text{ where } \varepsilon > 0$$

and to show that  $W_\varepsilon$  converges to  $W$  in  $W^{1,1}(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . We have for  $x \in \Omega$  (in the sense of distributions)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial W_\varepsilon}{\partial x_i} &= \frac{\Phi'(|\nabla u|)}{\varepsilon^2 + |\nabla u|^2} \frac{\langle \nabla u, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\nabla u) \rangle}{|\nabla u|} \nabla u - \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u|)}{(\varepsilon^2 + |\nabla u|^2)^2} 2 \langle \nabla u, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\nabla u) \rangle \nabla u \\ &\quad + \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u|)}{\varepsilon^2 + |\nabla u|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\nabla u). \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that  $|\nabla^{(2)}u| \leq C$ ,  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^2} \leq \frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}$ , and the boundedness of  $\frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}$  next to 0, we get

$$\left| \frac{\partial W_\varepsilon}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq c \frac{\Phi'(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|} \chi_\Omega = F(x) \in L^1(\mathbf{R}^n).$$

Moreover, for almost every  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , one has  $\frac{\partial W_\varepsilon}{\partial x_i}(x) \rightarrow K_i(x)$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , where

$$K_i = \left\{ \left( \frac{\Phi'(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|} - \frac{2\Phi(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|^2} \right) \langle \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\nabla u) \rangle \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} + \frac{\Phi(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(\nabla u) \right\} \chi_\Omega.$$

Lebesgue's Dominated Convergence theorem implies  $\frac{\partial W_\varepsilon}{\partial x_i} \rightarrow K_i$  in  $L^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$ . As simultaneously  $W_\varepsilon \rightarrow W$  in  $L^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$ , we conclude that  $W \in W^{1,1}(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$  and so  $\nabla W = (K_1, \dots, K_n)$ . This, together with the fact that  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$ , imply

$$I = - \int_\Omega \operatorname{div} S(x)u(x)dx.$$

By elementary differentiation we verify that for every  $x \in \Omega$  one has

$$\operatorname{div} S = \left( \frac{\Phi'_2(|\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|} [\nabla u]^t [\nabla^{(2)}u] [\nabla u] + \Phi_2(|\nabla u|) (\Delta u - \langle \nabla \varphi, \nabla u \rangle) \right) \exp(-\varphi)$$

and

$$\Phi'_2(t) = \left( \frac{\Phi'(t)}{t^2} - 2 \frac{\Phi(t)}{t^3} \right) = \frac{1}{t^2} \left( \Phi'(t) - \frac{\Phi(t)}{t} \right) - \frac{\Phi(t)}{t^3}. \tag{3.2}$$

Since  $\Phi$  is convex, one has  $\Phi(\lambda)/\lambda \leq \Phi'(\lambda)$  and so the first summand in (3.2) is nonnegative and does not exceed  $\Phi'(t)/t^2$ . Setting  $v = \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}$  we check that  $|\operatorname{div} S(x)| \leq (L_1 + L_2 + L_3)\exp(-\varphi)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} L_1 &= \tilde{\Phi}(|\nabla u|) |\nabla^{(2)}u|, \\ L_2 &= \Phi_2(|\nabla u|) |\Delta u - v^t [\nabla^{(2)}u] v|, \\ L_3 &= \Phi_2(|\nabla u|) |\langle \nabla \varphi, \nabla u \rangle| \leq \Phi_1(|\nabla u|) |\nabla \varphi|. \end{aligned}$$

A direct computation (see [23], Lemma 6.1) shows that

$$|\Delta u - v^t [\nabla^{(2)}u] v| \leq \sqrt{n-1} |\nabla^{(2)}u|.$$

Since  $\Phi_2(\lambda) \leq \tilde{\Phi}(\lambda)$ , the Lemma follows. ■

**Remark 3.1.** When  $\Phi$  satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition, then the functions  $\tilde{\Phi}$  and  $\Phi_2$  are equivalent, so inequality (3.1) can be rewritten as

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla u|)d\mu \leq C_n \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_2(|\nabla u|)|\nabla^{(2)}u| |u| d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_1(|\nabla u|)|u| |\nabla\varphi| d\mu \right). \quad (3.3)$$

**Remark 3.2.** Detailed analysis of the proof (see Lemma 3.1 in [23]) shows that an inequality slightly stronger than (3.1) holds, namely

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla u|)d\mu \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_n(|\nabla u|)|\nabla^{(2)}u| |u| d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_1(|\nabla u|)|u| |\nabla\varphi| d\mu, \quad (3.4)$$

with  $\Phi_n(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda\Phi'(\lambda) + (\sqrt{n-1}-1)\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^2}$ .

### 4 The Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities

In this section we present and prove our main results.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Suppose that  $\Phi$  is an  $N$ -function of class  $C^1((0, \infty))$  such that  $\frac{\Phi'(t)}{t}$  is bounded next to 0, and let  $H, J, J_1$  be three other  $N$ -functions, for which the following conditions are satisfied for every  $s, t, r > 0$  :*

$$(C1) \quad \tilde{\Phi}(s)tr \leq \Phi(s) + H(t) + J(r), \quad (4.1)$$

$$(C2) \quad \Phi_1(s)tr \leq \Phi(s) + H(t) + J_1(r), \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\tilde{\Phi}$  and  $\Phi_1$  were defined by (2.4). Assume that  $\mu(dx) = \exp(-\varphi(x))dx$ ,  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , is a weighted measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for which  $\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1, \mu)} < \infty$ .

Then for every  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  one has

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi, \mu)} \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\|u\|_{(H, \mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J, \mu)}} + C_{n, \varphi} \|u\|_{(H, \mu)}. \quad (4.3)$$

where  $0 < \beta_n = c\sqrt[4]{n}$  and  $C_{n, \varphi} = c\sqrt{n}\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1, \mu)}$ , with some constant  $c > 0$  independent of  $n$ .

Applying an elementary inequality  $2xy \leq x^2 + y^2$  we get the following.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Suppose that the assumptions of Theorem 4.1 are satisfied. Then*

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi, \mu)} \leq \beta_n \|u\|_{(H, \mu)} + \gamma_n \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J, \mu)}, \quad (4.4)$$

where  $0 < \beta_n = c\sqrt[4]{n}$ ,  $\gamma_n = c\sqrt{n}(1 + \|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1, \mu)})$ , and  $c > 0$  is independent of  $n$  and  $\varphi$ .

*Proof of Theorem 4.1.* First assume that  $\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1,\mu)} \neq 0$ .

Fix four positive numbers  $s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4$  and set  $s = \sqrt{s_1 s_2} + s_3 s_4$ . Starting with formula (3.1) applied to the function  $\tilde{u} = \frac{u}{s}$ , we get

$$\mathcal{I} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) d\mu \leq \alpha_n \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{\Phi}(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) \frac{1}{s^2} |u| |\nabla^{(2)}u| d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_1(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) \frac{1}{s} |u| |\nabla\varphi| d\mu.$$

Take an arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and estimate the integral in question by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I} &\leq \alpha_n \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{\Phi}(|\nabla u|) \frac{|u|}{s_1 \varepsilon} \frac{|\nabla^{(2)}u|}{s_2} d\mu + \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_1(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) \frac{|u|}{s_3 \varepsilon} \frac{|\nabla\varphi|}{s_4} d\mu \\ &=: \alpha_n \varepsilon \mathcal{I}_1 + \varepsilon \mathcal{I}_2 \end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

(we have used two obvious properties:  $s^2 > s_1 s_2$  and  $s > s_3 s_4$ ).

Now apply the assumption (4.1) to the first integral. This gives

$$\mathcal{I}_1 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H\left(\frac{|u|}{s_1 \varepsilon}\right) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J\left(\frac{|\nabla^{(2)}u|}{s_2}\right) d\mu. \tag{4.6}$$

To estimate  $\mathcal{I}_2$  we apply (4.2) instead of (4.1) and deduce that

$$\mathcal{I}_2 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla\tilde{u}|) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H\left(\frac{|u|}{s_3 \varepsilon}\right) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J_1\left(\frac{|\nabla\varphi|}{s_4}\right) d\mu. \tag{4.7}$$

Collecting (4.5), (4.6), (4.7) and rearranging, then choosing  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_n = \frac{1}{4(1+\alpha_n)}$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{4}\mathcal{I} &\leq \alpha_n \varepsilon_n \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H\left(\frac{|u|}{s_1 \varepsilon_n}\right) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J\left(\frac{|\nabla^{(2)}u|}{s_2}\right) d\mu \right) \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_n \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H\left(\frac{|u|}{s_3 \varepsilon_n}\right) d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J_1\left(\frac{|\nabla\varphi|}{s_4}\right) d\mu \right). \end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

Without loss of generality we can assume  $\|u\|_{(H,\mu)} \neq 0$ , and  $\|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,\mu)} \neq 0$ , as otherwise one has  $u \equiv 0$  (since it has been assumed  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ).

We set

$$s_1 = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_n} \|u\|_{(H,\mu)}, \quad s_2 = \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,\mu)}, \quad s_3 = s_1, \quad s_4 = \|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1,\mu)}.$$

It follows from (4.8) and (2.6) that  $\mathcal{I} < 1$ , and from the very definition of the Luxemburg norm

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi,\mu)} \leq s.$$

so that

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi,\mu)} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}} \sqrt{\|u\|_{(H,\mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,\mu)}} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_n} \|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1,\mu)} \|u\|_{(H,\mu)},$$

which is (4.3), because  $\varepsilon_n^{-1} = 2 + 2\alpha_n$ . Therefore we obtain the desired result.

Now we deal with the remaining case  $\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J,\mu)} = 0$ . This condition yields  $\varphi = \text{const}$  and  $\mu(dx) = c dx$ . For simplicity put  $c = 1$ .

In this case (3.1) has only one term. Take  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_n = \frac{1}{4\alpha_n}$ ,  $s_1 = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_n}\|u\|_{(H,dx)}$ ,  $s_2 = \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,dx)}$  and apply (3.1) to the function  $\tilde{u} = \frac{u}{\sqrt{s_1 s_2}}$ , getting

$$\mathcal{I} \leq \alpha_n \varepsilon_n \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \tilde{\Phi}(|\nabla u|) \frac{|u|}{s_1 \varepsilon} \frac{|\nabla^{(2)}u|}{s_2} dx.$$

Applying (4.1) and rearranging we see that

$$\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{I} \leq \frac{3}{4}\mathcal{I} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H\left(\frac{|u|}{s_1 \varepsilon_n}\right) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J\left(\frac{|\nabla^{(2)}u|}{s_2}\right) dx \right) \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

and therefore  $\mathcal{I} \leq 1$ ,  $\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi,dx)} \leq \sqrt{s_1 s_2}$ . Hence

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi,dx)} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}} \sqrt{\|u\|_{(H,dx)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,dx)}}$$

and  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_n}} = 2\sqrt{\alpha_n}$ . The Theorem follows. ■

**Remark 4.1.** Variants of inequality (4.3) in the particular case of the Lebesgue measure (with  $C_{n,\varphi} = 0$ ) were examined in detail in [23].

**Remark 4.2.** In general, we cannot expect inequalities in multiplicative form

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi,\mu)} \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\|u\|_{(H,\mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J,\mu)}}, \tag{4.9}$$

with  $\beta_n$  independent of  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , to hold. To see that, suppose that  $\mu(\mathbb{R}^n) < \infty$ ,  $\Phi, H, J$  satisfy the  $\Delta_2$ -condition and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(|x|)\mu(dx) < \infty$ . Let us consider an affine function  $u(x) = \langle A, x \rangle$  where  $A \neq 0$  and choose  $f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $f(x) \equiv 1$  on  $B(0, 1)$ ,  $f(x) \equiv 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B(0, 2)$ , then let  $u_R(x) = f(\frac{x}{R})u(x)$ . Function  $u_R(x)$  belongs to  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , and for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$u_R(x) \rightarrow u(x), \quad \nabla u_R(x) \rightarrow \nabla u(x), \quad \nabla^{(2)}u_R(x) \rightarrow \nabla^{(2)}u(x),$$

when  $R \rightarrow \infty$ . Using the Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem we see that each of the quantities:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(|\nabla u_R - \nabla u|)\mu(dx), \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(|u_R - u|)\mu(dx), \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J(|\nabla^{(2)}u_R - \nabla^{(2)}u|)\mu(dx)$$

converges to 0 when  $R \rightarrow \infty$ . Using Theorem 9.4 in Chapter II.9 of [29] adapted to the case of general  $\mu$  instead of the Lebesgue measure one gets:

$$\begin{aligned} u_R &\rightarrow u \text{ in } L^H(\mu), \\ \nabla u_R &\rightarrow \nabla u \text{ in } L^\Phi(\mu), \\ \nabla^{(2)}u_R &\rightarrow \nabla^{(2)}u = 0 \text{ in } L^J(\mu). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore if the inequality (4.9) has been true, it would apply to  $u(x) = \langle A, x \rangle$  as well. But in such case the left hand side of (4.9) equals  $\|\Phi(|A|)\|_{(\Phi,\mu)} \neq 0$ , while the right hand side is zero, a contradiction. Inequality (4.9) cannot be satisfied.

**Remark 4.3.** Our constants in Theorem 4.1 do not depend on the measure chosen. For example the bounds on  $C_1$  are the same for all weights considered (see Theorem 4.1).

**Remark 4.4.** Both  $N$ -functions:  $H$  and  $J_1$  in (4.2) must essentially dominate  $\Phi$  at infinity. Moreover, if  $u$  has compact support or  $\mu(\mathbb{R}^n) < \infty$ , then the condition  $u \in L^H(\mu)$  implies  $u \in L^\Phi(\mu)$  and the same holds with  $J_1$  instead of  $H$ .

Indeed, by the symmetry argument (see (4.2)) it suffices to prove this observation for one of the functions, let us say for  $H$ . Applying (4.2) with  $t = s$  we get

$$\Phi(s)r \leq \Phi(s) + H(s) + J_1(r), \text{ for every } s, r > 0.$$

equivalent to

$$r \leq 1 + \frac{H(s)}{\Phi(s)} + \frac{J_1(r)}{\Phi(s)}.$$

Therefore  $r - 1 \leq \liminf_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(s)}{\Phi(s)}$  for every  $r \geq 0$  and consequently

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(s)}{\Phi(s)} = \infty.$$

This shows that  $H$  essentially dominates  $\Phi$  next to infinity.

The second statement is a consequence of the discussion following the formula (2.7).

**Remark 4.5.** We do not impose any particular regularity assumptions on the measure  $\mu$  other than:  $\mu(dx) = \exp(-\varphi(x))dx$ ,  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1, \mu)} < \infty$  in Theorem 4.1. In particular our measure may not satisfy the doubling condition  $\mu(2B) \leq c\mu(B)$ , where  $B$  is an arbitrary ball in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $2B$  denotes the ball with the same center as  $B$  and twice the radius. Inequalities within a restricted class of weights (which necessarily satisfy the doubling condition) were obtained in [25] by different methods.

## 5 The class of admissible $N$ -functions

We are now going to discuss examples of triples  $(\Phi, H, J)$  and  $(\Phi, H, J_1)$  which can appear in inequalities (4.1) and (4.2). Triples  $(\Phi, H, J)$  admissible in (4.1) were formerly analyzed in ([23]). The following result can be deduced from Theorem 7.1 and 7.2 in [23]. For readers' convenience we include its proof.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Suppose that the functions  $\Phi, F, H, J: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  and  $g: (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  are such that:*

1.  $\Phi$  and  $F$  are  $N$ -functions and  $\Phi \in C^1((0, \infty))$ ;
2.  $g$  is strictly increasing,  $\Phi(\lambda)/g(\lambda)$  is nondecreasing and the following inequality is satisfied with a constant  $C_g$  independent of  $\lambda > 0$  :

$$\frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda} \leq C_g \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{g(\lambda)}; \tag{5.1}$$

3.  $H(y) = ((\Phi \circ g^{-1})(2C_g F(y)))$  and  $J(z) = ((\Phi \circ g^{-1})(2C_g F^*(z)))$ .

Then the inequality

$$\frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H(y) + J(z)$$

is satisfied for every  $\lambda, y, z > 0$ .

**Remark 5.1.** Note that since for a convex  $\Phi$  one has  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda} \leq \Phi'(\lambda)$  then (5.1) implies  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda^2} \leq C_g \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{g(\lambda)}$ . Therefore if  $g$  satisfies (5.1) then  $g(\lambda) \leq C_g \lambda^2$  for every  $\lambda > 0$ . In particular within homogeneous functions only  $g(\lambda) = \lambda^2$  is admitted. In such case we just get the  $\Delta_2$ -condition.

*Proof of Proposition 5.1.* By (5.1) we have

$$L := \frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{g(\lambda)}(C_g yz).$$

If  $a := \frac{C_g yz}{g(\lambda)} \leq 1$  then  $L \leq \Phi(\lambda)$  and the assertion is satisfied.

If  $a > 1$ , then we have  $g(\lambda) < C_g yz$ , so that  $\lambda < g^{-1}(C_g yz)$ . Therefore

$$\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{g(\lambda)} \leq \frac{(\Phi \circ g^{-1})(C_g yz)}{(g \circ g^{-1})(C_g yz)} = \frac{(\Phi \circ g^{-1})(C_g yz)}{C_g yz}$$

and consequently

$$L \leq \Phi \circ g^{-1}(C_g yz) \leq (\Phi \circ g^{-1})(C_g(F(y) + F^*(z))).$$

If  $F(y) \leq F^*(z)$ , then  $L \leq J(z)$ , while if  $F^*(z) \leq F(y)$ , then  $L \leq H(y)$ . In either case the Proposition follows. ■

To approach inequality (4.2) we use a similar result.

**Proposition 5.2.** Assume that  $\Phi$  and  $F$  are  $N$ -functions,  $\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda}$  is nondecreasing and  $H_1(y) = \Phi(2F(y))$ ,  $J_1(y) = \Phi(2F^*(y))$ . Then for every  $\lambda, y, z > 0$  we have

$$\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H_1(y) + J_1(z).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.1 and the Young inequality we have

$$\frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(yz) \leq \Phi(\lambda) + \Phi(F(y) + F^*(z)) \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H_1(y) + J_1(z). \quad \blacksquare$$

**Remark 5.2.** Note that if  $H_1(y) = \Phi(2F(y))$  where  $\Phi$  and  $F$  are as in the statement of Proposition 5.2, then again we have  $\Phi \prec H_1$  next to infinity (see Remark 4.4) and  $\Phi$  cannot be equivalent to  $H_1$ .

As a direct consequence of Proposition 5.1 and 5.2 we obtain the following result, which serves as a recipe for finding functions which can appear in (4.3) and (4.1).

**Proposition 5.3.** *Suppose that the functions  $\Phi, F, H, H_1, J: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  and  $g: (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  are such that:*

1.  $\Phi$  and  $F$  are  $N$ -functions and  $\Phi \in C^1((0, \infty))$ ;
2.  $g$  is strictly increasing,  $\Phi(\lambda)/g(\lambda)$  is nondecreasing and the following inequality is satisfied with the constant  $C_g$  independent of  $\lambda > 0$

$$\frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda} \leq C_g \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{g(\lambda)};$$

3.  $H(y) = ((\Phi \circ g^{-1})(2C_g F(y)))$  and  $J(z) = ((\Phi \circ g^{-1})(2C_g F^*(z)))$ ;
  4. the function  $R(z) := \frac{1}{2}g^{-1}(2C_g F(z))$  is an  $N$ -function and  $J_1(z) = \Phi(2R^*(z))$ .
- Then for every  $\lambda, y, z > 0$  we have

$$\frac{\Phi'(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H(y) + J(z) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\Phi(\lambda)}{\lambda}yz \leq \Phi(\lambda) + H(y) + J_1(z).$$

## 6 Three examples

In this chapter we present three examples illustrating Theorem 4.1.

### 6.1 Inequalities within homogeneous functions

Our first example deals with homogeneous functions.

**Proposition 6.1.** *Let  $p > q \geq 2$  and  $r > 1$  be such numbers that  $\frac{2}{q} = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{r}$ . Suppose that  $\mu(dx) = \exp(-\varphi(x))dx$  is a Radon measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $|\nabla\varphi| \in L^{\frac{pq}{p-q}}(\mu)$ . Then for any  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  we have*

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^q(\mu)} \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\|u\|_{L^p(\mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{L^r(\mu)}} + C_{n,\varphi} \|u\|_{L^p(\mu)}, \tag{6.1}$$

where  $0 < \beta_n \leq c\sqrt[n]{n}$ ,  $C_{n,\varphi} \leq c\sqrt{n}\|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1,\mu)}$ , and the constant  $c > 0$  is independent of  $n$ .

*Proof.* Let us take  $g(\lambda) = \lambda^2$ ,  $\Phi(\lambda) = \lambda^q$ ,  $F(\lambda) = \lambda^s$  where  $s = \frac{2p}{q}$  and apply Proposition 5.3. Then we have  $H(y) \sim y^p$ ,  $J(z) \sim z^r$ ,  $R(z) \sim z^{\frac{p}{q}}$ ,  $R^*(z) \sim z^{\frac{p}{p-q}}$  and  $J_1(z) \sim z^{\frac{pq}{p-q}}$ . Therefore Proposition follows. ■

**Remark 6.1.** In can easily be seen that the Gaussian measure  $\gamma(dx) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi n}}\exp(-\frac{|x|^2}{2})dx$ , exponential measure  $\mu(dx) = \alpha\exp(-\alpha|x|)$  where  $\alpha > 0$  is a given constant or an arbitrary measure of the form  $\mu(dx) = C_1\exp(-C_2|x|^\beta)$  where  $\beta \geq 1$  are allowed in every inequality of the form (6.1).

**Remark 6.2.** Proposition 6.1 deals with different class of weights than the weights in previous papers [7, 12, 13, 20, 21], [35, Theorem 1 in Section 1.4.7]. For example in the papers [12, 13, 20, 21] one assumes that the measure  $\mu$  in  $L^q(\mu)$  on the left hand side of the inequality (1.2) is doubling, while in Theorem 1, Section 1.4.7 of [35] it is assumed that such a measure satisfies the following  $s$ -regularity condition: there

exists  $s > 0$  such that  $\sup\{r^{-s}\mu(B(x, r)) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n, r > 0\} < \infty$ , where the symbol  $B(x, r)$  denotes the ball with center  $x$  and radius  $r$ . The paper [7] is restricted to homogeneous weights. In present paper neither of these conditions is assumed.

The paper [10] deals with triples of measures  $Ndx, Wdx$  and  $Pdx$ . The authors obtain very general but additive (therefore weaker) inequalities of the form

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla^{(j)}u|^p Ndx \leq K \left\{ \varepsilon^{-\varphi} \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^q Wdx \right)^{p/q} + \varepsilon^{\theta} \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla^{(m)}u|^r Pdx \right)^{p/r} \right\},$$

where  $\varphi, \theta$  are non-negative functions of  $m, j, p, q, r$ , while  $\Omega$  is a bounded or unbounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$ ,  $u$  is sufficiently smooth and  $N, W, P$  are weight functions satisfying certain additional conditions (we skip the detailed formulation which can be found in the paper). Therefore the approach presented there is different. Also, the techniques of [10] are independent from ours.

### 6.2 Logarithmic inequalities

Our next example applies to logarithmic  $N$ -functions

$$M_{s,\kappa}(t) = t^s(\ln(2+t))^\kappa.$$

Orlicz norms related to  $M_{s,\kappa}$  and the measure  $\mu$  are denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_{(s,\kappa,\mu)}$ . The result stated below generalizes Theorem 1.1 in [24].

**Proposition 6.2.** *Suppose that  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $p, r > 1, p > q$  are given numbers such that additionally the following condition is satisfied*

$$(q > 2, \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \text{ or } q = 2, \alpha \geq 0) \text{ and } \left( \frac{2}{q} = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{r}, \frac{2\alpha}{q} \leq \frac{\beta}{p} + \frac{\gamma}{r} \right),$$

Let  $\mu(dx) = \exp(-\varphi(x))dx$  is a Radon measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $|\nabla\varphi| \in L^{M_{\eta,\kappa}}(\mu)$  where  $\eta = q(\frac{p}{q})^*$  and  $\kappa = -(\beta - \alpha)((\frac{p}{q})^* - 1) + \alpha$ .

Then for any function  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  we have:

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(q,\alpha,\mu)} \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\|u\|_{(p,\beta,\mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(r,\gamma,\mu)}} + C_{n,\varphi} \|u\|_{(p,\beta,\mu)}, \tag{6.2}$$

where  $0 < \beta_n \leq c\sqrt[4]{n}$  and  $C_{n,\varphi} \leq c\sqrt{n} \|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1,\mu)}$  and the constant  $c > 0$  is independent of  $n$ .

*Proof.* At first we note that each function  $M_{s,\kappa}$ , where  $s > 1$ , satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition, so that inequality (5.1) holds with  $g(\lambda) = \lambda^2$ . This gives  $\frac{M'_{s,\kappa}(\lambda)}{\lambda} \sim M_{s-2,\kappa}(\lambda)$ . An application of Proposition 5.3 with  $\Phi(\lambda) = M_{q,\alpha}(\lambda)$ ,  $g(\lambda) = \lambda^2$  and  $F(\lambda) = \lambda^s(\ln(2+\lambda))^r$  where  $s = \frac{2p}{q}$ ,  $r = \frac{2(\beta-\alpha)}{q}$  and properties

$$M_{q,\alpha} \circ M_{\mu,\kappa} \sim M_{q\mu,q\kappa+\alpha}, \quad M_{\mu,\alpha}^* \sim M_{\mu^*,-\alpha(\mu^*-1)}$$

(see Theorem 7.1 in [29] for the latter property, the details are furnished in the proof of Theorem 1.2 in [24]) gives

$$H(y) \sim M_{p,\beta}(y) \text{ and } J(z) \sim M_{r,\gamma}(z). \tag{6.3}$$

Moreover,  $R(z) \sim \sqrt{F(z)} \sim M_{\frac{p}{q}, \frac{\beta-\alpha}{q}}(z)$  and  $R^*(z) \sim M_{\rho, \delta}(z)$  where  $\rho = (\frac{p}{q})^*$  and  $\delta = -\frac{\beta-\alpha}{q}((\frac{p}{q})^* - 1)$ . Therefore

$$J_1(z) \sim M_{q, \alpha} \circ M_{\rho, \delta}(z) \sim M_{\eta, \kappa}(z),$$

where  $\eta$  and  $\kappa$  are as in the statement of the Proposition. This ends the proof of the Proposition. ■

**Remark 6.3.** Similarly as in the case of homogeneous functions every measure of the form  $C_1 \exp(-C_2|x|^\beta)$  where  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  and  $\beta \geq 1$  can appear in the inequality (6.2).

### 6.3 Exponential inequalities

Our concluding example deals with exponential functions. Such functions do not satisfy the  $\Delta_2$ -condition but for the large  $\lambda$ 's they satisfy the condition (5.1) with  $g(\lambda) = \lambda^s$  for some positive  $s < 2$ . The detailed analysis of the example presented below for  $\mu = \omega dx$  within certain class of weights  $\omega$  introduced by Bloom and Kerman [15] was presented in [25]. Such measures satisfy the doubling condition. Some results within the Lebesgue measure were also obtained in [23]. Here we extend it to the Orlicz spaces  $L^\Phi(\mu)$  for essentially larger class of measures.

**Proposition 6.3.** *Suppose that  $p > 2, \alpha \in (0, 2), s > 2$  are given numbers and*

$$\Phi(\lambda) = \lambda^p \exp(\lambda^\alpha), \quad H(y) = \lambda^{\frac{ps}{2}} \exp(\lambda^{\frac{s\alpha}{2-\alpha}}) \quad J(\lambda) = \lambda^{\frac{ps^*}{2}} \exp(\lambda^{\frac{s^*\alpha}{2-\alpha}}). \quad (6.4)$$

Let  $\mu(dx) = \exp(-\varphi(x))dx$  be a Radon measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $|\nabla\varphi| \in L^{J_1}(\mu)$  where  $J_1(z) = z^\eta \exp(z^\kappa)$  where  $\eta = p(\frac{s}{2})^*$  and  $\kappa = \alpha(\frac{s}{2-\alpha})^*$ .

Then for any function  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  we have:

$$\|\nabla u\|_{(\Phi, \mu)} \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\|u\|_{(H, \mu)} \|\nabla^{(2)}u\|_{(J, \mu)}} + C_{n, \varphi} \|u\|_{(H, \mu)}, \quad (6.5)$$

where  $0 < \beta_n \leq c\sqrt[4]{n}$  and  $C_{n, \varphi} \leq c\sqrt{n} \|\nabla\varphi\|_{(J_1, \mu)}$  and the constant  $c > 0$  is independent on  $n$ .

*Proof.* Let us consider the function  $g(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^2}{\alpha\lambda^{\alpha+p}}$ . Then  $\Phi$  satisfies (5.1),  $g$  is increasing and so is  $\Phi/g$ . Let us take  $F(\lambda) = \lambda^s$  and apply Proposition 5.3. Indeed, one verifies that the functions  $H$  and  $J$  defined in Proposition 5.3 are equivalent to  $H$  and  $J$  defined in (6.4). The verification is based on the fact that they are equivalent for  $\lambda$  close to 0 and for  $\lambda$  close to infinity separately. In such a case we have  $g(\lambda) \sim \lambda^2$  for small  $\lambda$  and  $g(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{2-\alpha}$  for big  $\lambda$ ,  $\Phi(\lambda) \sim \lambda^p$  for small  $\lambda$  and  $\Phi(\lambda) \sim \exp(\lambda^\alpha)$  for big  $\lambda$ . Now let us compute the function  $R$  from the statement of Proposition 5.3. We observe that  $R(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{s/2}$  for small  $\lambda$  and  $R(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{s/(2-\alpha)}$  for big  $\lambda$ . Therefore  $R^*(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{(s/2)^*}$  for small  $\lambda$  and  $R^*(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{(s/(2-\alpha))^*}$  for big  $\lambda$ . It implies that

$$\Phi(2R^*(z)) \sim z^{p(\frac{s}{2})^*} \quad \text{for small } z \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi(2R^*(z)) \sim \exp(z^{\alpha(\frac{s}{2-\alpha})^*}) \quad \text{for big } z.$$

It follows that the function  $J_1(z) = z^\eta \exp(z^\kappa)$ , where  $\eta$  and  $\kappa$  are as in the statement of the Proposition, together with  $\Phi, H, J$ , satisfy the assumptions of Proposition 4.1. This implies the statement of the Proposition. ■

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Institute of Mathematics,  
Warsaw University,  
ul. Banacha 2,  
02-097 Warszawa, Polska (Poland),  
emails: [kalamajs@mimuw.edu.pl](mailto:kalamajs@mimuw.edu.pl) and [kpp@mimuw.edu.pl](mailto:kpp@mimuw.edu.pl)