

BOUNDEDNESS OF THE LITTLEWOOD-PALEY g-FUNCTION ON $Lip_\alpha(R^n)$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$)

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I. Introduction

Let R^n be n -dimensional Euclidean space. We say that a scalar valued function ψ on R^n is a Littlewood-Paley function if the following three conditions are satisfied:

$$\psi \in L(R^n), \quad \int_{R^n} \psi(x) dx = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

$$|\psi(x)| \leq c(1 + |x|)^{-(n+1)}, \quad (1.2)$$

$$|\psi(x+y) - \psi(x)| \leq \frac{c|y|^\varepsilon}{(1 + |x|)^{n+1+\varepsilon}}, \quad |y| \leq \frac{|x|}{2}, \text{ some } \varepsilon > 0. \quad (1.3)$$

For instance, these conditions are satisfied by the well-known functions

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{c_n t}{(t^2 + |x|^2)^{(n+1)/2}} \Big|_{t=1}$$

and

$$\psi_j(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \frac{1}{(1 + |x|^2)^{(n+1)/2}} \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

with $\varepsilon = 1$, and higher order derivatives of these functions of order k give examples with $\varepsilon = k$.

For a fixed Littlewood-Paley function ψ , let

$$g_\psi(f)(x) = g(f)(x) = \left\{ \int_0^\infty |f * \psi_t(x)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2} \quad (1.4)$$

denote the Littlewood-Paley g -function of f . The Littlewood-Paley g -function

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of f is well defined under some assumptions on f , although it may be infinite on a set of positive measure.

As in [1], page 312, we have

$$\|g(f)\|_p \leq C\|f\|_p \quad (1 < p < \infty), \quad (1.5)$$

where C is independent of f .

Recently, Wang Silei [2] discussed the end-point cases of this result when $f \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ or $f \in \text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

The aim of this paper is to study the behaviour of $g(f)$ when $f \in \text{Lip}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$).

THEOREM 1. *If $f \in \text{Lip}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $0 < \alpha < \min\{\varepsilon, 1\}$, and $g(f)(x_0) < \infty$ for a single point x_0 , then $g(f) \in \text{Lip}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and*

$$\|g(f)\|_{\Lambda_\alpha} \leq C\|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha},$$

where $\|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}$ denotes the Lip_α norm of f , and C is a constant depending only on n and α .

The assumption concerning the finiteness of $g(f)(x_0)$ is essential. In fact, consider the classical Littlewood-Paley g -function

$$g(f)(x) = \left\{ \int_0^\infty t |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 dt \right\}^{1/2},$$

where

$$p_t(y) = \frac{c_n t}{(t^2 + |y|^2)^{(n+1)/2}}, \quad c_n = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)}{\pi^{(n+1)/2}},$$

$$u(x, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} p_t(y) f(x - y) dy \quad (t > 0),$$

$$|\nabla u(x, t)|^2 = \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right|^2 + \sum_{j=1}^n \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_j} \right|^2.$$

THEOREM 2. *There exists a function $f \in \text{Lip}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all α ($0 < \alpha < 1$), such that $g(f)(x) = \infty$ everywhere where g is the classical Littlewood-Paley g -function.*

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We say that a locally integrable function f on R^n is Lipschitz α ($0 < \alpha < 1$), and denote this by $f \in Lip_\alpha$; if there is a constant c so that $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq c|x - y|^\alpha$ for every x, y in R^n , the smallest such constant c is called the Lip_α norm of f and is denoted by $\|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}$.

LEMMA 1 [1, page 213]. *Suppose that f is a locally integrable function on R^n , $0 < \alpha < 1$. Then the following four statements are equivalent and the constants appearing on the right-hand side of each are also equivalent.*

- (i) $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq c_1|x - y|^\alpha$, all x, y in R^n .
- (ii)

$$\sup \frac{1}{|Q|^{1+\alpha/n}} \int_Q |f(x) - f_Q| dx = c_2 < \infty,$$

where the supremum ranges over all finite cubes Q in R^n whose sides are parallel to the axes, $|Q|$ is the Lebesgue measure of Q , and f_Q denotes the mean value of f over Q , namely,

$$f_Q = \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q f(y) dy.$$

(We will consider only these cubes in what follows.)

- (iii) $|f(x) - f_Q| \leq c_3|Q|^{\alpha/n}$, all $x \in R^n$, $Q \subset R^n$.
- (iv)

$$\sup \left\{ \frac{1}{|Q|^{1+\alpha p/n}} \int_Q |f(x) - f_Q|^p dx \right\}^{1/p} = c_4 < \infty, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over the same range as in (ii). The equivalence is to be understood to mean that each f which satisfies (ii), (iii) or (iv), can be modified in a set of measure zero so as to coincide with a continuous function which satisfies (i) as well.

We will use freely c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4 as the Lip_α norm $\|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}$ of f .

Remark. In Lemma 1, if (ii) holds for some constant in place of f_Q then it also holds for f_Q .

LEMMA 2. Suppose that $f \in Lip_\alpha(R^n)$, $\beta > 0$, $0 < \alpha < \min\{\beta, 1\}$, Q is a cube with center x_0 , edge-length h . Then

$$\int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q} \frac{|f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q}|}{h^{n+\beta} + |x - x_0|^{n+\beta}} dx \leq Ch^{\alpha-\beta} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}, \tag{1.6}$$

C a constant depending only on n , α and β .

Using Lemma 1, the proof of Lemma 2 is similar to a result of Fefferman-Stein's [3], and we omit it.

LEMMA 3. Suppose that $f \in Lip_\alpha(R^n)$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$), Q is a cube and x_0 is in its interior, then $g(f\chi_Q)(x_0) < \infty$.

Proof. To see this we use different estimates on $\psi_t^*(f\chi_Q)(x_0)$ depending on the size of t . If $t \geq 1$ we observe that

$$|\psi_t^*(f\chi_Q)(x_0)| \leq C \int_{|y| \leq C} \frac{t}{(t + |y|)^{n+1}} dy \leq Ct^{-n}.$$

This uses only the fact that $f\chi_Q$ is bounded and has compact support. As for $t \leq 1$, we write

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_t^*(f\chi_Q)(x_0) &= \int_{|y| \leq d} (f(x_0 - y) - f(x_0))\psi_t(y) dy \\ &\quad + \int_{|y| \geq d} (f(x_0 - y)\chi_Q(x_0 - y) - f(x_0))\psi_t(y) dy \end{aligned}$$

where we choose $d > 0$ but $d \leq$ distance from x_0 to the complement of Q . Then

$$\left| \int_{|y| \leq d} (f(x_0 - y) - f(x_0))\psi_t(y) dy \right| \leq C \int |y|^\alpha |\psi_t(y)| dy \leq Ct^\alpha$$

since $f \in Lip_\alpha(R^n)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_{|y| \geq d} (f(x_0 - y)\chi_Q(x_0 - y) - f(x_0))\psi_t(y) dy \right| \\ &\leq C \int_{|y| \geq d} \frac{t}{(t + |y|)^{n+1}} dy \\ &\leq Ct, \end{aligned}$$

since $f\chi_Q$ is bounded.

These estimates easily imply $g(f\chi_Q)(x_0) < \infty$.

II. Proof of Theorem 2

First we consider the case $n = 1$, and define the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq 1, \\ x, & 0 < x < 1, \\ 0, & x \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

To estimate $|f(x_1) - f(x_2)|$, without loss of generality, we assume that $x_1 < x_2$. If $x_1 < 0$ or $x_2 > 1$, observing that f is constant on $(-\infty, 0]$ and $[1, +\infty)$, by the triangle inequality, we may reduce these cases to $x_1 = 0$ or $x_2 = 1$. That is, we need only to deal with the special case $0 \leq x_1, x_2 \leq 1$. In this case, $|x_1 - x_2| \leq 1$, so

$$|f(x_1) - f(x_2)| = |x_1 - x_2| \leq |x_1 - x_2|^\alpha \quad \text{for } 0 < \alpha < 1.$$

We will prove that $g(f)(x) = \infty$ everywhere.

A simple calculation gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x, t) &= -2c_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^1} f(x-y) \frac{ty}{(t^2 + y^2)^2} dy \\ &= -2c_1 \int_{-\infty}^{x-1} \frac{ty}{(t^2 + y^2)^2} dy - 2c_1 \int_{x-1}^x \frac{(x-y)ty}{(t^2 + y^2)^2} dy \\ &= c_1 \left(\operatorname{arctg} \frac{x}{t} - \operatorname{arctg} \frac{x-1}{t} \right) \quad (t > 0). \end{aligned}$$

Now, by the mean value theorem, we have

$$\operatorname{arctg} \frac{x}{t} - \operatorname{arctg} \frac{x-1}{t} = \frac{1}{t} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \xi^2} \quad \left(t > 0, \frac{x}{t} > \xi > \frac{x-1}{t} \right),$$

and consequently, if we let $\tilde{x}^2 = \max\{x^2, (x-1)^2\}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} &= \frac{c_1}{t} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \xi^2} \geq c_1 \cdot \frac{1}{t} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \max\left\{\frac{x^2}{t^2}, \frac{(x-1)^2}{t^2}\right\}} \\ &= \frac{c_1 t}{t^2 + \tilde{x}^2} \quad (t > 0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$g(f)(x) = \left\{ \int_0^\infty t |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 dt \right\}^{1/2} \geq c_1 \left\{ \int_0^\infty \frac{t^3}{(t^2 + \tilde{x}^2)^2} dt \right\}^{1/2} = \infty.$$

Next, for the case $n \geq 2$, for $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$, define the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x_n \geq 1, \\ x_n, & 0 < x_n < 1, \\ 0, & x_n \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

A similar proof can be used to show that $f \in Lip_\alpha(R^n)$ and $g(f)(x) = \infty$ everywhere, and the Theorem 2 follows.

III. Proof of Theorem 1

We first prove that $g(f)(x) < \infty$ a.e. on R^n . It suffices to prove that $g(f)(x) < \infty$ a.e. on each cube Q_0 containing x_0 . Now, suppose that a cube Q_0 with edge-length h_0 is chosen such that x_0 is in its interior, and write

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0} + (f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0})\chi_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}(x) \\ &\quad + (f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0})\chi_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0}(x) \\ &= f_1(x) + f_2(x) + f_3(x). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the fact that $\int_{R^n} \psi(y) dy = 0$ implies that

$$g(\text{const.}) = 0, \text{ so } g(f_1) \equiv 0. \tag{3.2}$$

As for $f_2(x)$, using (1.5) and Lemma 2 (iv) with $p = 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_0} |g(f_2)(x)|^2 dx &\leq \int_{R^n} |g(f_2)(x)|^2 dx \\ &\leq C \int_{R^n} |f_2(x)|^2 dx \\ &= C \int_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0} |f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}|^2 dx \\ &\leq C |Q_0|^{1+(2/n)\alpha} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}^2, \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

C a constant, not necessarily the same at each occurrence, depending only on n and α . Thus by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_0} |g(f_2)(x)| dx &\leq |Q_0|^{1/2} \left(\int_{Q_0} |g(f_2)(x)|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq C |Q_0|^{1+\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

It also follows from (3.4) that

$$g(f_2)(x) < \infty \quad \text{a.e. on } Q_0. \quad (3.5)$$

Now we consider $g(f_3)(x)$, $x \in Q_0$. We have $g(f_3)(x)$ bounded by the sum of

$$I_1(x) = \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} |\psi_t * f_3(x) - \psi_t * f_3(x_0)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2}$$

and

$$I_2(x) = \left\{ \int_{h_0}^\infty |\psi_t * f_3(x) - \psi_t * f_3(x_0)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2},$$

and

$$g(f_3)(x_0) = \left\{ \int_0^\infty |\psi_t * f_3(x_0)|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2}.$$

Applying Lemma 3 to the function $f - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}$ and the cube $4\sqrt{n}Q_0$, $g(f_2)(x_0) < \infty$, and so

$$g(f_3)(x_0) \leq g(f_2)(x_0) + g(f)(x_0) < \infty. \quad (3.6)$$

By (1.2),

$$\begin{aligned} I_1(x) &= \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} \left[\int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} [|\psi_t(x-y) - \psi_t(x_0-y)|] \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times [f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}] dy \right]^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} \left[\int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} [|\psi_t(x-y)| + |\psi_t(x_0-y)|] \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times |f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}| dy \right]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\leq C \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} \int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} \left[\frac{1}{(t+|x-y|)^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{(t+|x_0-y|)^{n+1}} \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times |f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}|^2 dy dt \right\}^{1/2}. \quad (3.7) \end{aligned}$$

The conditions $x_0, x \in Q_0$ and $y \notin 4\sqrt{n} Q_0, 0 < t < h_0$, imply that

$$|x - y| \geq C|x_0 - y| \geq C(|x_0 - y| + h_0)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{(|x_0 - y| + t)^{n+1}} \leq \frac{C}{|x_0 - y|^{n+1} + h_0^{n+1}},$$

$$\frac{1}{(|x - y| + t)^{n+1}} \leq \frac{C}{|x_0 - y|^{n+1} + h_0^{n+1}}.$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$I_1(x) \leq C \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} t \left[\int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n} Q_0} \frac{|f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n} Q_0}|}{|x_0 - y|^{n+1} + h_0^{n+1}} dy \right]^2 dt \right\}^{1/2}.$$

By Lemma 2 with $\varepsilon = 1$,

$$I_1(x) \leq C \left\{ \int_0^{h_0} t \cdot h_0^{2\alpha-2} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}^2 dt \right\}^{1/2} \leq Ch_0^\alpha \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha} \leq C|Q_0|^{\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}. \tag{3.8}$$

Now we estimate $I_2(x)$. The fact that $x_0, x_1 \in Q_0$ and $y \notin 4\sqrt{n} Q_0$ implies that

$$|(x - y) - (x_0 - y)| \leq \frac{1}{2}|x_0 - y|,$$

and by (1.3),

$$|\psi_t(x - y) - \psi_t(x_0 - y)| \leq ct^{-n} \left| \frac{x - x_0}{t} \right|^\varepsilon \cdot \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{|x_0 - y|}{t} \right)^{n+1+\varepsilon}}$$

$$\leq ct \cdot h_0^\varepsilon \cdot \frac{1}{(t + |x_0 - y|)^{n+1+\varepsilon}}. \tag{3.9}$$

Applying Minkowski's inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2(x) &= \left\{ \int_{h_0}^{\infty} \left| \int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} [\psi_t(x-y) - \psi_t(x_0-y)] \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. \times [f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}] dy \right|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} \left[\int_{h_0}^{\infty} |\psi_t(x-y) - \psi_t(x_0-y)|^2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times |f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right]^{1/2} dy \\
 &\leq \int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} h_0^\varepsilon |f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}| \\
 &\quad \times \left[\int_{h_0}^{\infty} \frac{t^2}{(t + |x_0 - y|)^{2(n+1+\varepsilon)}} \cdot \frac{dt}{t} \right]^{1/2} dy, \tag{3.10}
 \end{aligned}$$

and for $x_0 \in Q_0$, $y \in R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left[\int_{h_0}^{\infty} \frac{t^2}{(t + |x_0 - y|)^{2(n+1+\varepsilon)}} \cdot \frac{dt}{t} \right]^{1/2} \\
 &\leq C \left[\int_{h_0}^{\infty} \frac{t}{(t^2 + |x_0 - y|^2)^{(n+1+\varepsilon)}} dt \right]^{1/2} \\
 &\leq C \left[\frac{1}{(h_0^2 + |x_0 - y|^2)^{n+\varepsilon}} \right]^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \frac{C}{|x_0 - y|^{n+\varepsilon} + h_0^{n+\varepsilon}}. \tag{3.11}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then we use Lemma 2 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2(x) &\leq C \int_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q_0} h_0^\varepsilon \frac{|f(y) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q_0}|}{|x_0 - y|^{n+\varepsilon} + h_0^{n+\varepsilon}} dy \\
 &\leq Ch_0^\varepsilon \cdot h_0^{\alpha-\varepsilon} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha} \leq C|Q_0|^{\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}. \tag{3.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.6), (3.8) and (3.12), we have $g(f_3)(x) < \infty$, and so

$$g(f)(x) \leq g(f_2)(x) + g(f_3)(x) < \infty \quad \text{a.e. on } Q_0.$$

Next let Q be any cube with edge-length h . Write

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f_{4\sqrt{n}Q} + (f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q})\chi_{4\sqrt{n}Q}(x) + (f(x) - f_{4\sqrt{n}Q})\chi_{R^n \setminus 4\sqrt{n}Q}(x) \\ &= f_1(x) + f_2(x) + f_3(x). \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

Then $g(f_1)(x) \equiv 0$, and repeating the process to prove (3.4) with Q_0 replaced by Q , we have

$$\int_Q |g(f_2)(x)| dx \leq C|Q|^{1+\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}. \quad (3.14)$$

It has been shown that $g(f)(x) < \infty$ a.e., so that

$$g(f_3)(x) \leq g(f_2)(x) + g(f)(x) < \infty \quad \text{a.e.}$$

Therefore, there must be a point $\bar{x} \in Q$ for which $g(f_3)(\bar{x}) < \infty$. Repeating the proof of (3.8) and (3.12) with Q_0 replaced by Q , we have

$$\left\{ \int_0^\infty |\psi_t * f_3(x) - \psi_t * f_3(\bar{x})|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right\}^{1/2} \leq C|Q|^{\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}, \quad x \in Q.$$

Thus for $x \in Q$,

$$\begin{aligned} |g(f_3)(x) - g(f_3)(\bar{x})| &\leq \left[\int_0^\infty |\psi_t * f_3(x) - \psi_t * f_3(\bar{x})|^2 \frac{dt}{t} \right]^{1/2} \\ &\leq C|Q|^{\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

and consequently

$$\int_Q |g(f_3)(x) - g(f_3)(\bar{x})| dx \leq C|Q|^{1+\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}. \quad (3.15)$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_Q |g(f)(x) - g(f_3)(\bar{x})| dx \\
 & \leq \int_Q |g(f)(x) - g(f_3)(x)| dx + \int_Q |g(f_3)(x) - g(f_3)(\bar{x})| dx \\
 & \leq \int_Q |g(f_2)(x)| dx + \int_Q |g(f_3)(x) - g(f_3)(\bar{x})| dx \\
 & \leq C|Q|^{1+\alpha/n} \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

Finally, by the remark after Lemma 1, for each cube Q ,

$$\frac{1}{|Q|^{1+\alpha/n}} \int_Q |g(f)(x) - (g(f))_Q| dx \leq C \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha},$$

namely,

$$\|g(f)\|_{\Lambda_\alpha} \leq C \|f\|_{\Lambda_\alpha},$$

C a constant depending only on n and α .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

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