

## THE COMMUTATOR OF THE BOCHNER-RIESZ OPERATOR

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**Abstract.**  $L^p$  mapping properties are considered for the commutator of the Bochner-Riesz operator.

**1. Introduction and the statement of results.** As well known, commutators generated by some classical operators and BMO functions are useful in the study of partial differential equations (see [3], [10]). Thus it is of great interest to consider the  $L^p$  boundedness of these commutators. In 1978, Coifman and Meyer [4] observed that for the classical Calderón-Zygmund singular integral operators, the  $L^p$  boundedness for the corresponding first order commutators can be obtained by appropriate weighted norm inequalities with  $A_p$  weights for the singular integral operators, where  $A_p$  denotes the weight function class of Muckenhoupt (see [7] for the definition and properties of  $A_p$ ). Recently, Alvarez, Bagby, Kurtz and Pérez [1] developed the idea of Coifman and Meyer and proved the following result.

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $1 < p, q < \infty$ . Suppose that the linear operator  $T$  satisfies the weighted norm estimate*

$$\|Tf\|_{p,w} \leq \bar{C} \|f\|_{p,w}$$

for all  $w \in A_q$ , where the constant  $\bar{C}$  depends only on  $n, p$  and the  $A_q$  constant of  $w$ , but not on the weight  $w$ . Then for any positive integer  $k$  and  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \text{BMO}$ , the commutator defined by

$$T_{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k} f(x) = T \left( \prod_{j=1}^k (b_j(x) - b_j(\cdot)) f(\cdot) \right) (x)$$

is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with norm  $C(p, n, k) \prod_{j=1}^k \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}}$ .

The purpose of this paper is to study the  $L^p$  boundedness for the commutator of the Bochner-Riesz operator. The Bochner-Riesz operator is defined in terms of Fourier transform by

$$(1) \quad (T^\alpha f)^\wedge(\xi) = (1 - |\xi|^2)_+^\alpha \hat{f}(\xi),$$

where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\hat{f}$  denotes the Fourier transform of  $f$ . For  $k$  a positive integer and  $b_1(x)$ ,

$b_2(x), \dots, b_k(x) \in \text{BMO}(R^n)$ , define the commutator of  $T^\alpha$  by

$$(2) \quad T_{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k}^\alpha f(x) = T^\alpha \left( \prod_{j=1}^k (b_j(x) - b_j(\cdot)) f(\cdot) \right) (x).$$

If  $\alpha \geq (n-1)/2$ , a result of Shi and Sun [11] states that  $T^\alpha$  is bounded on  $L_w^p(R^n)$  provided  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $w \in A_p$ . In view of Theorem A we thus have:

**THEOREM B.** *If  $\alpha \geq (n-1)/2$ , then for any positive integer  $k$  and  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \text{BMO}$ , the commutator  $T_{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k}^\alpha$  is bounded on  $L^p(R^n)$  for all  $1 < p < \infty$  with norm  $C(n, p, k) \prod_{j=1}^k \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}}$ .*

In the case of  $0 < \alpha < (n-1)/2$ , Herz [8] proved that if  $T^\alpha$  is bounded on  $L^p(R^n)$ , then  $2n/(n+1+\alpha) < p < 2n/(n-1-2\alpha)$ . Thus by the result of Coifman and Rochberg [5], a standard duality argument shows that in this case  $T^\alpha$  does not satisfy the assumption of Theorem A for any  $1 < p, q < \infty$  (see also [9, Corollary 3]). In this paper, we will prove that the commutator of  $T^\alpha$  enjoys some  $L^p$  mapping properties which are parallel to that of the operator  $T^\alpha$ . Our main results can be stated as follows:

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$  and  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \text{BMO}(R^2)$ . If  $4/(3+2\alpha) < p < 4/(1-2\alpha)$ , then  $T_{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k}^\alpha$  is bounded on  $L^p(R^2)$  with norm  $C(p, k) \prod_{j=1}^k \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}}$ .*

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $n \geq 3$  and  $(n-1)/(2n+2) < \alpha < (n-1)/2$ ,  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \text{BMO}(R^n)$ . If  $2n/(n+1+2\alpha) < p < 2n/(n-1-2\alpha)$ , then  $T_{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k}^\alpha$  is bounded on  $L^p(R^n)$  with norm  $C(n, p, k) \prod_{j=1}^k \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}}$ .*

## 2. Proof of the theorems.

**PROOF OF THEOREM 1.** To simplify the exposition, we only deal with the case  $k=2$ . Write

$$T_{b_1, b_2}^\alpha f(x) = \int_{R^2} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x) - b_j(y)) B^\alpha(x-y) f(y) dy,$$

where

$$B^\alpha(x) = C_\alpha \frac{J_{1+\alpha}(|x|)}{|x|^{1+\alpha}},$$

and  $J_\beta(t)$  denotes the Bessel function of order  $\beta$ . Note that

$$J_\beta(t) = Ct^{-1/2} \cos\left(t - \frac{\pi\beta}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) + r(t), \quad t \rightarrow \infty,$$

$$r(t) = O(t^{-3/2}), \quad t \rightarrow \infty,$$

hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{b_1, b_2}^\alpha f(x) &= C \int_{|x-y| \geq 1} \cos\left(|x-y| - \frac{\pi(3+2\alpha)}{4}\right) \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x) - b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy \\ &\quad + C \int_{|x-y| \geq 1} r(|x-y|) \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x) - b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{1+\alpha}} dy \\ &\quad + C \int_{|x-y| \leq 1} \frac{J_{1+\alpha}(|x-y|)}{|x-y|^{1+\alpha}} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x) - b_j(y)) f(y) dy \\ &= Pf(x) + Qf(x) + Rf(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$|J_\beta(t)| \leq C_\beta |t|^\beta, \quad t \rightarrow 0,$$

it follows that

$$\left| \int_{|x-y| \leq 1} \frac{J_{1+\alpha}(|x-y|)}{|x-y|^{1+\alpha}} f(y) dy \right| \leq CMf(x),$$

where  $Mf$  denotes the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function of  $f$ . Thus by the weighted estimate for  $M$  (see [7]) and Theorem A, we get

$$\|Rf\|_p \leq C \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_p, \quad 1 < p < \infty.$$

Recall that  $|r(t)| \leq C|t|^{-3/2}$  if  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\alpha > 0$ , so

$$\left| \int_{|x-y| \geq 1} r(|x-y|) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{1+\alpha}} dy \right| \leq C \prod_{k=1}^\infty \int_{2^{k-1} \leq |x-y| < 2^k} \frac{|f(y)|}{|x-y|^{5/2+\alpha}} dy \leq CMf(x),$$

which implies that

$$\|Qf\|_p \leq C \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_p, \quad 1 < p < \infty.$$

Obviously, the  $L^p$  norm of  $P$  can be controlled by that of the operator  $\tilde{P}$  defined by

$$\tilde{P}f(x) = \int_{|x-y| \geq 1} e^{i|x-y|} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x) - b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy.$$

Furthermore, since  $\alpha < 1/2$  and

$$\left| \int_{|x-y| < 1} e^{i|x-y|} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy \right| \leq CMf(x),$$

Theorem A tells us that for all  $1 < p < \infty$ ,

$$\left\| \int_{|x-y|<1} e^{i|x-y|} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x)-b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy \right\|_p \leq C \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_p.$$

Thus we may view the operator  $P$  as

$$(3) \quad Pf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{i|x-y|} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x)-b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy.$$

By Stein’s interpolation theorem (see [12]) and Theorem B, to prove Theorem 1, it is enough to show that for any  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$ , the operator  $P$  defined by (3) is bounded on  $L^4(\mathbb{R}^2)$ . Denote  $I = [0, 1]$ ,  $I^2 = I \times I$ , and  $F(I^2) = [-1.5, 2.5]^2 \setminus [-0.5, 1.5]^2$ . For fixed  $\lambda > 0$ , define

$$P^\lambda f(x) = \int_{I^2} e^{i\lambda|x-y|} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy$$

and the corresponding commutator

$$P_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f(x) = \int_{I^2} e^{i\lambda|x-y|} \prod_{j=1}^2 (b_j(x)-b_j(y)) \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{3/2+\alpha}} dy.$$

Set  $S^\lambda f(x) = \lambda^{1/2-\alpha} P^\lambda f(x)$  and  $S_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f(x) = \lambda^{1/2-\alpha} P_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f(x)$ . Note that if  $b(x) \in \text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , then  $b(tx) \in \text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\|b(t \cdot)\|_{\text{BMO}} = \|b\|_{\text{BMO}}$  for any  $t > 0$ . By the same argument as in [2], we see that the proof of Theorem 1 can be reduced to the following:

LEMMA. *There exists a positive constant  $\delta > 0$ , such that*

$$\|S_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C \lambda^{-\delta} \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)}.$$

Now we prove this Lemma. Let  $s$  be a small positive constant which will be chosen later. Set  $0 < r < 1/2$  and  $\sigma > 0$  such that

$$\frac{1}{4+\sigma} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{r}{2}.$$

Observe that if  $x \in F(I^2)$ , then

$$|P^\lambda f(x)| \leq C \int_{I^2} |f(y)| dy \leq C_r \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2-r}} |f(y) \chi_{I^2}(y)| dy = C_r I_r(f \chi_{I^2})(x),$$

where  $\chi_{I^2}$  is the characteristic function of  $I^2$ , and  $I_r$  is the usual fractional integral operator of order  $r$ . By the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev theorem, it follows that

$$(4) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^{4+\sigma}(F(I^2))} \leq C \lambda^{1/2-\alpha} \|P^\lambda f\|_{L^{4+\sigma}(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leq C \lambda^{1/2-\alpha} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)}.$$

Similarly, if  $\sigma$  is small enough, we have

$$(5) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{1/2-\alpha} \|f\|_{L^{4-\sigma}(I^2)}.$$

By the key estimate used in [2], we have

$$(6) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)},$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Interpolation between the inequalities (4) and (6) yields

$$(7) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^{4+s\sigma}(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)}$$

with  $0 < s < 1$ . On the other hand, interpolation between the inequalities (5) and (6) gives

$$(8) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \|f\|_{L^{4-s\sigma}(I^2)}.$$

We can also get by the inequalities (7) and (8) that

$$(9) \quad \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^{4+s^2\sigma}(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \|f\|_{L^{4-s^2\sigma}(I^2)}.$$

Let  $\phi(x) \in C_0^\infty(R^2)$  such that  $\phi(x) = 1$  if  $|x| \leq 50$  and  $\text{supp } \phi \subset \{x: |x| \leq 100\}$ . Denote

$$\tilde{b}_j(y) = [b_j(y) - m_{10I^2}(b_j)]\phi(y),$$

where  $m_{10I^2}(b_j)$  denotes the mean value of  $b_j$  on  $10I^2$ . Obviously, if  $x \in F(I^2)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} S_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f(x) &= \tilde{b}_1(x)\tilde{b}_2(x)S^\lambda f(x) + \tilde{b}_1 S^\lambda(\tilde{b}_2 f)(x) + \tilde{b}_2(x)S^\lambda(\tilde{b}_1 f)(x) + S^\lambda(\tilde{b}_1 \tilde{b}_2 f)(x) \\ &= \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III} + \text{IV}. \end{aligned}$$

For the first term, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\text{I}\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} &\leq \|\tilde{b}_1 \tilde{b}_2\|_{L^q(R^2)} \|S^\lambda f\|_{L^{4+s\sigma}(F(I^2))} \\ &\leq C(\sigma, s) \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1/q = 1/4 - 1/(4+s\sigma)$ , and the second inequality follows from the inequality (7) and the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{b}_1 \tilde{b}_2\|_{L^q(R^2)} &\leq \left( \int_{|y| \leq 100} |b_1(y) - m_{10I^2}(b_1)|^{2q} dy \right)^{1/2q} \left( \int_{|y| \leq 100} |b_2(y) - m_{10I^2}(b_2)|^{2q} dy \right)^{1/2q} \\ &\leq C(s, \sigma) \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}}. \end{aligned}$$

The estimate for the fourth term follows from the inequality (8) by

$$\begin{aligned} \|\text{IV}\|_{L^4(F(I^2))} &\leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \|\tilde{b}_1 \tilde{b}_2 f\|_{L^{4-s\sigma}(I^2)} \\ &\leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_{L^4(I^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

In the same way, using (9), we can obtain

$$\| \text{II} + \text{III} \|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\varepsilon+(1/2-\alpha+\varepsilon)s} \prod_{j=1}^2 \| b_j \|_{\text{BMO}} \| f \|_{L^4(I^2)} .$$

Choose  $s$  so small that  $\delta = \varepsilon - (1/2 - \alpha + \varepsilon)s > 0$ . Combining the estimates above we get

$$\| S_{b_1, b_2}^\lambda f \|_{L^4(F(I^2))} \leq C\lambda^{-\delta} \prod_{j=1}^2 \| b_j \|_{\text{BMO}} \| f \|_{L^4(I^2)} .$$

This concludes the proof of our Lemma.

**PROOF OF THEOREM 2.** By duality and interpolation, it is enough to consider the situation where  $2n/(n+1+2\alpha) < p < (2n+2)/(n+3)$ . We only treat the case that  $k=2$ . Let  $\psi_0(x), \psi(x) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be radial functions such that

$$\text{supp } \psi \subset \{x : 1/4 \leq |x| \leq 4\} ,$$

and that for any  $|x| \neq 0$ ,

$$\psi_0(x) + \sum_{l=1}^\infty \psi(2^{-l}x) = 1 .$$

Denote  $B^\alpha(x) = ((1 - |\cdot|)_+^\alpha)^\wedge(x)$ . Write  $\psi_l(x) = \psi(2^{-l}x)$  for a positive integer  $l$  and define  $T_l^\alpha$  by

$$T_l^\alpha f(x) = (B^\alpha \psi_l) * f(x) .$$

It follows that

$$T^\alpha f(x) = \sum_{l=0}^\infty (B^\alpha \psi_l) * f(x) = \sum_{l \geq 0} T_l^\alpha f(x) .$$

As in the proof of Theorem 1, it is not difficult to see that

$$\| T_{0; b_1, b_2}^\alpha f \|_p \leq C \prod_{j=1}^2 \| b_j \|_{\text{BMO}} \| f \|_p , \quad 1 < p < \infty .$$

Our goal is to obtain a refined  $L^p$  estimate for  $T_{l; b_1, b_2}^\alpha$  for  $l \geq 1$ , i.e., we want to show that there exists a positive constant  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(p)$ , such that

$$(10) \quad \| T_{l; b_1, b_2}^\alpha f \|_p \leq C 2^{-\varepsilon l} \prod_{j=1}^2 \| b_j \|_{\text{BMO}} \| f \|_p .$$

If we can do so, then the summation of the inequality (10) over all  $l \geq 1$  concludes the proof of Theorem 2.

We turn our attention to the operator

$$\tilde{T}_l^\alpha f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} B^\alpha(2^l(x-y)) \psi(x-y) f(y) dy$$

( $l \geq 1$ ), and the corresponding commutator

$$\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f(x) = \int_{R^n} \prod_{j=1}^2 (\tilde{b}_j(x) - \tilde{b}_j(y)) B^\alpha(2^l(x-y)) \psi(x-y) f(y) dy,$$

with  $\tilde{b}_j(y) = b_j(2^l y)$ . To prove (10), it is enough to show that

$$(11) \quad \|\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f\|_p \leq C 2^{-(n+\varepsilon)l} \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} \|f\|_p.$$

Write  $R^n = \bigcup I_i$ , where  $\{I_i\}$  is a collection of cubes of side length 1 with disjoint interiors. Set  $f_i = f\chi_{I_i}$ . Since  $\text{supp } \psi \subset \{x : 1/4 \leq |x| \leq 4\}$ , the support of  $\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f_i$  is contained in a fixed multiple of  $I_i$ , so the supports of various terms  $\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f_i$  have bounded overlaps. Thus

$$\|\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f\|_p^p \leq C \sum_i \|\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f_i\|_p^p.$$

For each fixed  $i$ , let  $\phi_i \in C_0^\infty$  be a function such that  $0 \leq \phi_i \leq 1$ , that  $\phi_i$  is identically one on  $100nI_i$ , and that  $\text{supp } \phi_i \subset 200nI_i$ . Denote  $\tilde{I}_i = 400nI_i$  and

$$\tilde{b}_j^i(y) = [\tilde{b}_j(y) - m_{\tilde{I}_i}(\tilde{b}_j)] \phi_i(y).$$

Obviously,

$$\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f_i(x) = \int_{R^n} \prod_{j=1}^2 (\tilde{b}_j^i(x) - \tilde{b}_j^i(y)) B^\alpha(2^l(x-y)) \psi(x-y) f_i(y) dy.$$

Now we estimate  $\|\tilde{T}_{l;b_1,b_2}^\alpha f_i\|_p$ . By the argument of [6], we know that if  $2n/(n+1+2\alpha) < p < (2n+2)/(n+3)$ , then

$$\|T_l^\alpha h\|_p \leq C 2^{l(n/p - (n+1+2\alpha)/2)} \|h\|_p,$$

which implies that

$$(12) \quad \|\tilde{T}_l^\alpha h\|_p \leq C 2^{-ln} 2^{l(n/p - (n+1+2\alpha)/2)} \|h\|_p \leq C 2^{-l((3n+1+2\alpha)/2 - n/p)} \|h\|_p.$$

Noting that  $|B^\alpha(y)| \leq C$  for all  $|y| \geq 1$ , we have, for any  $0 < r < n$ ,

$$(13) \quad |\tilde{T}_l^\alpha h(x)| \leq \int_{1 \leq |x-y| \leq 2} |h(y)| dy \leq C_r \int_{R^n} \frac{|h(y)|}{|x-y|^{n-r}} dy = C_r I_r h(x).$$

Let  $2n/(n+1+2\alpha) < p < (2n+2)/(n+3)$  and  $s$  be small positive number. By the inequalities (12) and (13), as in the proof of Theorem 1, we can find that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{T}_l^\alpha h\|_{p+s\sigma} &\leq C 2^{-\delta_1 l} \|h\|_p, \\ \|\tilde{T}_l^\alpha h\|_p &\leq C 2^{-\delta_2 l} \|h\|_{p-s\sigma}, \\ \|\tilde{T}_l^\alpha h\|_{p+s\sigma} &\leq C 2^{-\delta_1 l} \|h\|_{p-s_1\sigma}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 < \delta_1 < \delta_2$ , and  $\delta_1 \rightarrow \delta_0 = (3n+1+2\alpha)/2 - n/p > n$  as  $s \rightarrow 0$ . We can choose  $s, \sigma$

small enough such that  $\delta_1 > n$ . The same argument as in the proof of Theorem 1 then yields

$$\|\tilde{T}_{l; b_1, b_2}^\alpha f_i\|_p \leq C \prod_{j=1}^2 \|b_j\|_{\text{BMO}} 2^{-(n+\varepsilon)l} \|f_i\|_p,$$

with  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(p) > 0$ . This leads to the estimate (11), and then completes the proof of Theorem 2.

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