

THE MAXIMAL OPERATOR ON SPACES OF HOMOGENOUS TYPE

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ABSTRACT. We study the boundedness of the maximal operator in the spaces $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ over a measurable subset of a space of homogenous type with an exponent $p(x)$ satisfying the Dini–Lipschitz condition.

რეზიუმე. შესწავლილია მაქსიმალური ოპერატორის შემოსაზღვრულობის საკითხი ერთგვაროვანი ტიპის სივრცის ზომად ქვესიმრავლეზე განსაზღვრულ ცვლადმაჩვენებლიან $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ სივრცეზე, როცა $p(x)$ მაჩვენებელი აკმაყოფილებს დინი–ლიპსიციტის პირობას.

In the last years the Lebesgue spaces $L^{p(\cdot)}$ with variable exponent have become an object of intensive investigation, see [1]–[4] for basic properties of the spaces $L^{p(\cdot)}$. One of the main results in this field was Diening’s theorem [1] about the boundedness of the Hardy–Littlewood maximal operator in $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ when Ω is a measurable bounded set in R^n , under certain conditions on p . Later Diening has extended this result to the whole R^n with the additional assumption that p is constant outside of a fixed ball. Our goal was to expand this research on the spaces of homogenous type. We have to mention that for that case our Theorem 1 independently was proved by P. Harjulehto, P. Hästö and M. Pere [5] for bounded metric measure spaces.

We start with the definition of the space of homogenous type (see e.g. [6]).

Definition 1. A space of homogenous type (SHT in following) (X, ρ, μ) is a topological space with a measure μ such that the space of compactly supported continuous functions is dense in $L^1(X, \mu)$ and there exists a non-negative real-valued function $\rho : X \times X \rightarrow R^1$ satisfying:

- (i) $\rho(x, x) = 0$ for all $x \in X$.
- (ii) $\rho(x, y) > 0$ for all $x \neq y, x, y \in X$.
- (iii) There is a constant $a_0 > 0$ such that $\rho(x, y) \leq a_0 \rho(y, x)$ for all $x, y \in X$.

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(iv) There is a constant $a_1 > 0$ such that $\rho(x, y) \leq a_1(\rho(x, z) + \rho(z, y))$ for all.

(v) For every neighbourhood V of $x \in X$ there is $r > 0$ such that the ball $B(x, r) = \{y \in X : \rho(x, y) < r\}$ is contained in V .

(vi) Balls $B(x, r)$ are measurable for every $x \in X$ and every $r > 0$.

(vii) There is a constant $b > 0$ such that $\mu B(x, 2r) \leq b\mu B(x, r) < \infty$ for every $x \in X$ and every $r > 0$.

One can find many interesting examples of SHT in [6].

Suppose that Ω is a measurable bounded set in X and p is a measurable function on Ω such that $1 \leq p(x) \leq \bar{p} < \infty$, $x \in \Omega$. By $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ we denote the space of measurable functions $f(x)$ on Ω such that

$$\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} = \int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^{p(x)} d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

$L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ is a Banach space with the norm:

$$\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \left\| \frac{f}{\lambda} \right\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

In this paper we consider the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator,

$$Mf(x) = \sup_{r>0} \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)| d\mu(y).$$

We will use also the following notations:

$$p_B = \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in B} p(x), \quad \bar{p}_B = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in B} p(x), \quad \underline{p}_\Omega = \underline{p}, \quad \bar{p}_\Omega = \bar{p},$$

$$M_r f(x) = \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)| d\mu(y). \quad \text{We also assume that } \rho \text{ is a metric.}$$

Theorem 1. *Let Ω be a bounded set in a homogenous type space X and $p : \Omega \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ satisfy the following conditions:*

$$\text{a) } 1 < \underline{p} \leq \bar{p} < \infty \tag{1}$$

b) *there exists a positive number c_0 , such that for every pair $x, y \in \Omega$*

$$|p(x) - p(y)| \leq \frac{c_0}{\log \frac{1}{\rho(x, y)}}, \quad \text{when } \rho(x, y) < \frac{1}{2}. \tag{2}$$

Then the maximal operator M is bounded in $L^{p(\cdot)}$ space.

We need some lemmas to prove this theorem.

Lemma 1. *Let Ω be a bounded set and $r_0 > 0$. Then there exist positive numbers s , α and β , such that*

- a) $\mu B(x, r) \leq \beta r^s$, when $x \in \Omega$ and $r \geq r_0$;
- b) $\mu B(x, r) \geq \alpha r^s$, when $x \in \Omega$ and $r < r_0$.

Proof. Let us suppose that $r_0 = 1$ and $k(x) = \mu B(x, 1)$, $x \in \Omega$. As Ω is a bounded set there exists a ball B_0 , such that $\Omega \subset B_0$. We can suppose that B_0 is sufficiently large so that $B(x, 1) \subset 2B_0$ for every $x \in \Omega$. Consequently

$$k(x) \leq \mu(2B_0) = K < \infty.$$

For the other side, it's easy to show that there exists a natural number N , independent of x , such that $\Omega \subset B(x, N)$. Thus $\mu\Omega \leq \mu B(x, N) \leq c_1 \mu B(x, 1)$ and $k(x) \geq \frac{\mu\Omega}{c_1} = k > 0$. So we have

$$0 < k \leq k(x) \leq K < \infty, \quad x \in \Omega.$$

Using the doubling condition several times we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu B(x, 2^n) &\leq c^n \mu B(x, 1) = k(x)(2^n)^{\log_2 c} \leq K(2^n)^s, \\ \mu B\left(x, \frac{1}{2^n}\right) &\geq c^{-n} \mu B(x, 1) = k(x)(2^{-n})^{\log_2 c} \geq k(2^{-n})^s, \end{aligned}$$

where $s = \log_2 c$.

Now let $r \geq r_0 = 1$. There exists a natural number n , such that $2^{n-1} \leq r < 2^n$. Then

$$\mu B(x, r) \leq \mu B(x, 2^n) \leq K(2^n)^s \leq K(2r)^s = K2^s r^s = \beta r^s.$$

In the same way, if $r < r_0 = 1$, there exists a natural number n , such that $2^{-n} \leq r < 2^{-n+1}$ and

$$\mu B(x, r) \geq \mu B(x, 2^{-n}) \geq k\left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^s = k2^{-s} r^s = \alpha r^s.$$

In the case of an arbitrary r_0 the proof is analogous. The lemma is proved. \square

Lemma 2. *Let Ω be a bounded set and the condition (2) holds. Then there exists a positive number c_1 , such that for every ball B*

$$(\mu B)^{\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B} \leq c_1 \tag{3}$$

when $\mu(\Omega \cap B) > 0$.

Proof. As Ω is a bounded and (2) holds, it is obvious that $1 \leq \underline{p} \leq \underline{p}_B \leq \overline{p}_B \leq \overline{p} < \infty$. If $\mu B \geq 1$ then $(\mu B)^{\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B} \leq 1$ and (3) holds. Let $\mu B < 1$ and $\text{diam}(B) \geq \frac{1}{2}$. As we have seen in the proof of Lemma 1, in this case $\mu B \geq k > 0$. Hence, $(\mu B)^{\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B} \leq k^{\underline{p} - \overline{p}}$. Thus we can assume that

$\text{diam}(B) < \frac{1}{2}$. Let us choose a pair $u, \nu \in \Omega \cap B$, so that $0 \leq \frac{1}{2}(\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B) \leq p(u) - p(\nu)$. Since $\rho(u, \nu) < \frac{1}{2}$,

$$|p(u) - p(\nu)| \leq c_0 \log^{-1} \frac{1}{\rho(u, \nu)}.$$

Hence,

$$e^{c_0} \geq (\rho(u, \nu))^{-|p(u) - p(\nu)|} \geq (\rho(u, \nu))^{\frac{1}{2}(\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B)}.$$

By Lemma 1 $\rho(u, \nu) \leq 2r(B) \leq c(\mu B)^{\frac{1}{s}}$. So,

$$e^{2c_0} \geq (\rho(u, \nu))^{\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B} \geq c(\mu B)^{\frac{1}{s}(\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B)},$$

or

$$(\mu, B)^{\underline{p}_B - \overline{p}_B} \leq ce^{2c_0 s} = c_1.$$

and the lemma is proved. \square

Lemma 3. *Let Ω be a bounded set and the conditions (1) and (2) hold. Then there exists a positive number c such that for every $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$, with $\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq 1$*

$$|M_r f(x)|^{p(x)} \leq c(1 + M_r(|f(\cdot)|^{p(\cdot)}(x))), \quad r > 0 \quad (4)$$

$$|Mf(x)|^{p(x)} \leq c(1 + M(|f(\cdot)|^{p(\cdot)}(x))). \quad (5)$$

Proof. Let $r \geq \frac{1}{2}$:

$$\begin{aligned} |M_r f(x)|^{p(x)} &= \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)| d\mu(y) \right)^{p(x)} \leq \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r)} (1 + |f(y)|^{p(y)}) d\mu(y) \right)^{p(x)}. \end{aligned}$$

As we have seen while proving the Lemma 1 $\mu B(x, 1) \geq k$. Hence,

$$\mu B(x, r) \geq \mu B\left(x, \frac{1}{2}\right) \geq c\mu B(x, 1) \geq ck,$$

and

$$|M_r f(x)|^{p(x)} \leq \left(\frac{1}{ck} + 1 \right)^{p(x)} < \left(\frac{1}{ck} + 1 \right)^{\overline{p}}.$$

Now let $0 < r < \frac{1}{2}$:

$$\begin{aligned} |M_r f(x)|^{p(x)} &= \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)| d\mu(y) \right)^{p(x)} \leq \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r)} |f(y)|^{\underline{p}_{B(x, r)}} d\mu(y) \right)^{\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_{B(x, r)}}} \leq \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} (1 + |f(y)|^{p(y)}) d\mu(y) \right)^{\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}} \leq \\
&\leq (\mu B(x, r))^{\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}} \left(\int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) + \mu B(x, r) \right)^{\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\mu B(x, r) \leq \mu B(x, 1) \leq k$,

$$\int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) + \mu B(x, r) \leq 1 + K.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
&|M_r f(x)|^{p(x)} \leq \\
&\leq (\mu B(x, r))^{-\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}} (1+K)^{\frac{\bar{p}}{2}} \left(\frac{1}{1+K} \int_{B(x, y) \cap \Omega} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) + \frac{\mu B(x, r)}{1+K} \right)^{\frac{\bar{p}}{2}} \leq \\
&\leq (\mu B(x, r))^{\frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}} (1+K)^{\frac{\bar{p}}{2}} \left(\frac{1}{1+K} \int_{B(x, y) \cap \Omega} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) + \frac{\mu B(x, r)}{1+K} \right) = \\
&= (\mu B(x, r))^{1 - \frac{p(x)}{\underline{p}_B(x, r)}} (1+K)^{\frac{\bar{p}}{2} - 1} \left(\frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap \Omega} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) + 1 \right) \leq \\
&\leq (\mu B(x, r))^{\frac{\underline{p}_B(x, r) - \bar{p}_B(x, r)}{\bar{p}_B(x, r)}} (1+K)^{\frac{\bar{p}}{2} - 1} (1 + M_r(|f(\cdot)|^{p(\cdot)}(x))).
\end{aligned}$$

By virtue of Lemma 2, $(\mu B(x, r))^{\underline{p}_B - \bar{p}_B} \leq c_1$. Hence,

$$(\mu B(x, r))^{\frac{\underline{p}_B - \bar{p}_B}{\bar{p}_B}} \leq \max(1, c_1^{\frac{1}{\bar{p}}})$$

and

$$(M_r f(x))^{p(x)} \leq c(1 + M_r(|f(\cdot)|^{p(\cdot)}(x))).$$

The inequality (4) is proved. Taking the supremum by r we obtain (5). \square

Proof of Theorem 1. First of all we should mention that if $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ then $f \in L^1(\Omega)$, as Ω is bounded. Define a function q by the quality $q(x) = \frac{p(x)}{\bar{p}}$. It is obvious that $1 \leq q(x) \leq p(x) \leq \bar{p} < \infty$ and there exists a positive number A , such that $\|f\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq A\|f\|_{p(\cdot)}$ for every $f \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$. Let $\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq \frac{1}{A}$. Then $\|f\|_{q(\cdot)} \leq 1$ and by virtue of Lemma 3

$$\begin{aligned}
&|Mf| = \|(Mf)^{q(\cdot)}\|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)}^{\bar{p}} \leq \|c(M(|f(\cdot)|^{q(\cdot)}) + 1)\|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)}^{\bar{p}} \leq \\
&\leq c \left(c' \| |f(\cdot)|^{q(\cdot)} \|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)} + \|1\|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)} \right)^{\bar{p}} \leq c \left(c' \| |f(\cdot)|^{q(\cdot)} \|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)} + \|1\|_{L^{\bar{p}}(\Omega)} \right)^{\bar{p}} =
\end{aligned}$$

$$= c(c'(|f|_{p(\cdot)})^{\frac{1}{p}} + \|1\|_{L^2(\Omega)})^2 < c_1 < \infty.$$

Thus, $|Mf|_{p(\cdot)} < c_1$ when $|f|_{p(\cdot)} < \frac{1}{A}$. Then $|Mf|_{p(\cdot)} < c_2$ when $|f|_{p(\cdot)} < \frac{1}{A}$. But this means that the operator M is bounded in $L^{p(\cdot)}$. The theorem is proved. \square

Theorem 2. *Let X be a homogenous type space, $p : X \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ satisfy the conditions (1) and (2) and p be a constant outside some ball. Then the operator M is bounded in $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$:*

$$\|Mf\|_{L^{p(\cdot)}(X)} < c\|f\|_{L^{p(\cdot)}(x)}.$$

Proof. Let us suppose that $p(x) = p_0$ when $x \notin B_0 = B(x_0, R)$ and $B_1 = B(x_0, 2r)$. Let $\varphi(x) = f(x)1_{B_1}(x)$ and $\psi(x) = f(x)1_{X \setminus B_1}(x)$. It is obvious that $Mf \leq M\varphi + M\psi$. We are going to show that $|Mf|_{p(\cdot)} < c < \infty$ when $|f|_{p(\cdot)} \leq 1$. We will do it separately for $|M\varphi|_{p(\cdot)}$ and $|M\psi|_{p(\cdot)}$. We start with $|M\varphi|_{p(\cdot)}$. Let $x \in B_1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} M\varphi(x) &= \sup_r \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r)} |\varphi(y)| d\mu(y) = \\ &= \sup_r \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap B_1} |f(y)| d\mu(y) = M_{B_1} f(x) \end{aligned}$$

and by virtue of Theorem 1

$$\int_{B_1} (M\varphi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) = \int_{B_1} (M_{B_1} f(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) < c_1 \quad (6)$$

as $\|f\|_{p(\cdot), B_1} \leq \|f\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq 1$.

Now let $x \in X \setminus B_1$ and $B(x, r) \cap B_0 = \emptyset$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_r \varphi(x) &= \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap (B_1 \setminus B_0)} |\varphi(y)| d\mu(y) = \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r)} |f(y) \cdot 1_{B_1 \setminus B_0}(y)| d\mu(y) \leq M(f \cdot 1_{B_1 \setminus B_0})(x) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Now suppose that $x \in X \setminus B_1$ and $B(x, r) \cap B_0 \neq \emptyset$. It is not difficult to check that in this case $B_1 \subset B(x, 9r)$. Let $h = |f|_{B_1} \cdot 1_{B_1}$, where $|f|_{B_1} = \frac{1}{\mu B_1} \int_{B_1} |f| d\mu$. It is obvious that $h \in L^{p_0}(X)$ and

$$\|h\|_{L^{p_0}(x)} = (\mu B_1)^{\frac{1}{p_0}} |f|_{B_1} = (\mu B_1)^{\frac{1}{p_0}-1} \int_{B_1} |f| d\mu(y) \leq$$

$$\leq (\mu B_1)^{\frac{1}{p_0}-1} \left(\int_{B_1} |f|^{p_0} d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{p_0}} (\mu B_1)^{\frac{1}{q_0}} \leq \left(\int_{B_1} |f(y)|^{p(y)} d\mu(y) \right)^{\frac{1}{p_0}} \leq 1. \quad (8)$$

Now we estimate $M_r \varphi(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_r \varphi(x) &= \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r)} |\varphi(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B_1} |f(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \\ &\leq \frac{c}{\mu B(x, 9r)} \int_{B_1} |f(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \frac{c}{\mu B(x, 9r)} \mu B_1 \frac{1}{\mu B_1} \int_{B_1} |f(y)| d\mu(y) = \\ &= \frac{c}{\mu B(x, 9r)} \int_{B_1} |h(y)| d\mu(y) = \frac{c}{\mu B(x, 9r)} \int_{B(x, 9r)} |h(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \\ &\leq CMh(x). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

From (7) and (9) follows that

$$M\varphi(x) \leq M(f \cdot 1_{B_1 \setminus B_0})(x) + cMh(x), \quad x \in X \setminus B_1.$$

Taking into consideration (8) we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{X \setminus B_1} (M\varphi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) &= \int_{X \setminus B_1} (M\varphi(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq \\ &\leq c \int_{X \setminus B_1} (M(f \cdot 1_{B_1 \setminus B_0})(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) + c \int_{X \setminus B_1} (Mh(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq \\ &\leq c \int_{X \setminus B_1} ((f \cdot 1_{B_1 \setminus B_0})(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) + c \int_{X \setminus B_1} (h(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq \\ &\leq c \int_{X \setminus B_1} |f(x)|^{p(x)} d\mu(x) + c \leq c_2 < \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Combining (6) and (10) we have:

$$\int_X (M\varphi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \leq c_1 + c_2 < \infty. \quad (11)$$

Now we start to estimate $|M\psi|_{p(\cdot)}$. Let $x \in B_0$. If $r < R$ then $B(x, r) \cap (X \setminus B_1) = \emptyset$ and, therefore, $M_r \psi(x) = 0$. So we can suppose that $r \geq R$. Then:

$$M_r \psi(x) = \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap (X \setminus B_1)} |f(y)| d\mu(y) \leq$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)} \int_{B(x, r) \cap (X \setminus B_1)} (1 + |f(y)|^{p_0}) d\mu(y) \leq \\
&\leq \frac{\mu B(x, r) + 1}{\mu B(x, r)} = 1 + \frac{1}{\mu B(x, r)}.
\end{aligned}$$

As $x \in B_0$ and $r \geq R$, by virtue of Lemma 1 $\mu B(x, r) \geq k > 0$ and

$$M\psi(x) \leq 1 + \frac{1}{k} = m,$$

which immediately gives

$$\int_{B_0} (M\psi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \leq m^{\bar{p}} \mu B_0 = c_3 < \infty. \quad (12)$$

As a last step we are going to estimate $\int_{X \setminus B_0} (M\psi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{X \setminus B_0} (M\psi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) &= \int_{X \setminus B_0} (M\psi(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq \int_X (M\psi(x))^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq \\
&\leq c \int_X |\psi(x)|^{p_0} d\mu(x) \leq c \int_X |f(x)|^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \leq c_4 < \infty.
\end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

From (12) and (13) follows that

$$\int_X (M\psi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \leq c_3 + c_4 \quad (14)$$

and (11) and (14) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_X (Mf(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \leq \\
&\leq 2^{\bar{p}} \left(\int_X (M\varphi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) + \int_X (M\psi(x))^{p(x)} d\mu(x) \right) \leq \\
&\leq 2^{\bar{p}} (c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + c_4) = c.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $|Mf|_{p(\cdot)} \leq c$ when $\|f\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq 1$, which signifies the boundedness of the operator M and the proof of Theorem 2 is completed. \square

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