

Carleson-Type Maximal Operators with Variable Kernels*

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Abstract The author considers the L^p boundedness for two kinds of Carleson-type maximal operators with variable kernels $\frac{\Omega(x, y')}{|y|^n}$, where $\Omega(x, y') \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \times W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ for some $s > 0$.

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1 Introduction

For $f \in L^2([-\pi, \pi])$ and $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$, the Carleson operator $\mathcal{C}^*$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{C}^* f(x) = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{e^{-i\lambda t} f(t)}{x - t} dt \right|.$$

In 1966, using the fact that $\mathcal{C}^*$ is of the weak type (2,2), Carleson [6] proved that the Fourier series of a function in $L^2([-\pi, \pi])$ converges pointwise almost everywhere. Later, Hunt [12] extended Carleson's theorem to the $L^p([-\pi, \pi])$ for $1 < p < \infty$.

In 1970, Sjölin [17] studied an analogue of the Carleson operator $\mathcal{C}^*$ on $\mathbb{R}^n$ defined by

$$\mathcal{S}^* f(x) = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\lambda \cdot y} K(x - y) f(y) dy \right|.$$

He showed that $\mathcal{S}^*$ is bounded on L^p for $1 < p < \infty$, where K is an appropriate Calderón-Zygmund kernel.

In 2001, Stein and Wainger [18] considered the following more general Carleson-type maximal operator,

$$\mathcal{T}^* f(x) = \sup_{\lambda} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iP_{\lambda}(y)} K(y) f(x - y) dy \right|,$$

where $P_{\lambda}(x) = \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq d} \lambda_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$, $\lambda := (\lambda_{\alpha})_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq d}$. They got the result as following.

Theorem A (cf. [18]) *Suppose that $P_{\lambda}(x) = \sum_{2 \leq |\alpha| \leq d} \lambda_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$ and K satisfies the following conditions:*

- (1) K is a tempered distribution and agrees with a C^1 function $K(x)$ for $x \neq 0$;
- (2) $\widehat{K} \in L^\infty$;

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(3) $|\partial_x^\gamma K(x)| \leq A|x|^{-n-|\gamma|}$ for $0 \leq |\gamma| \leq 1$.
 Then $\|T^*f\|_{L^p} \leq C_p\|f\|_{L^p}$ for $1 < p < \infty$.

Recently, Ding and Liu [9] improved Theorem A and obtained weighted L^p boundedness for the Carleson-type maximal operator T^* , that is the following theorem.

Theorem B (cf. [9]) Suppose that $P_\lambda(x) = \sum_{2 \leq |\alpha| \leq d} \lambda_\alpha x^\alpha$, $K(x) = \Omega(x')|x|^{-n}$, and Ω satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} \Omega(x') d\sigma(x') &= 0, \\ \Omega \in L^q(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) \text{ and } \int_0^1 \frac{\omega_q(\delta)}{\delta} d\delta < \infty \end{aligned} \quad \text{for some } 1 < q \leq \infty, \quad (1.1)$$

where $\omega_q(\delta)$ is the L^q -modulus of the continuity of Ω . Then for $1 \leq q' < p < \infty$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|T^*f\|_{L^p} \leq C \left(\|\Omega\|_{H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})} + \int_0^1 \frac{\omega_q(\delta)}{\delta} d\delta \right) \|f\|_{L^p},$$

where $H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ is the Hardy space on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ (see [8] for the definition of $H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$).

In 2009, the L^p bound for another Carleson-type maximal operator is considered, which is the following theorem.

Theorem C (cf. [10]) Suppose that $Q_\mu(t) = \sum_{2 \leq k \leq d} \mu_k t^k$, $K(x) = \Omega(x')|x|^{-n}$, and $\Omega \in H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ and satisfies (1.1). Then the Carleson-type maximal operator

$$\mathfrak{T}^*f(x) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iQ_\mu(|y|)} \frac{\Omega(y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy \right|$$

is bounded on L^p for $1 < p < \infty$. Further, $\|\mathfrak{T}^*\|_{L^p \rightarrow L^p} \leq C\|\Omega\|_{H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})}$.

If $\Omega(x, y')$ is integrable on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} \Omega(x, y') d\sigma(y') = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (1.2)$$

then singular integrals with the variable kernel

$$\mathcal{K}f(x) = \text{p.v.} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\Omega(x, y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy$$

exist. The continuity property of the singular integral $\mathcal{K}$ has been extensively studied, see [3–5] for more details.

Motivated by the above results about Carleson-type maximal operators and singular integrals with variable kernels, we will consider the L^p boundedness for the following two Carleson-type maximal operators with the variable kernel

$$\mathcal{K}^*f(x) = \sup_{\lambda} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iP_\lambda(y)} \frac{\Omega(x, y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy \right| \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\mathfrak{K}^*f(x) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iQ_\mu(|y|)} \frac{\Omega(x, y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy \right|, \quad (1.4)$$

where $\Omega(x, y')$ is integrable on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and satisfies (1.2).

Our main results in this note are as follows.

Theorem 1.1 Let $\mathcal{K}^*$ be given as in (1.3) and $P_\lambda(x) = \sum_{2 \leq |\alpha| \leq d} \lambda_\alpha x^\alpha$. If $\Omega(x, y') \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \times W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ for $s > \frac{3n-2}{4}$, then for $1 < p < \infty$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|\mathcal{K}^* f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}.$$

Remark 1.1 The Sobolev imbedding theorem on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ (see [14, § 7.1]) states that $W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) \subset C^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ for $s > \frac{n+1}{2}$. $\frac{3n-2}{4} < \frac{n+1}{2}$ when $2 \leq n < 4$, so, Theorem 1.1 can be looked as an improvement of Theorem A in some sense. Moreover, in the same way, we can prove that $\mathcal{K}^*$ is also bounded on $L^p(w)$ for $w \in A_p$, $1 < p < \infty$.

Theorem 1.2 Let $\mathfrak{K}^*$ be given as in (1.4) and $Q_\mu(t) = \sum_{2 \leq k \leq d} \mu_k t^k$. If $\Omega(x, y') \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \times W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ for $s > \frac{n-1}{2}$, then for $1 < p < \infty$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|\mathfrak{K}^* f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}.$$

Remark 1.2 The study of singular integrals with an oscillating factor $e^{iQ_\mu(|y|)}$ has an important motivation. In fact, the singular integral in (1.4) is a generalization of the strongly singular convolution operator, which has been well studied by Fefferman (see [11]).

2 Notations and Lemmas

This section is devoted to the description of some basic facts and notations about spherical harmonics. An exposition of further details can be found in [2] or [16].

For $m \in \mathbb{N}$, denote the space of spherical harmonics of degree m on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ by $\mathcal{H}_m$, and let h_m be the dimension of $\mathcal{H}_m$. If $\{Y_{m,j}\}_{j=1}^{h_m}$ denotes the normalized complete system in $\mathcal{H}_m$, then, $\{Y_{m,j} : m \in \mathbb{N}, j = 1, 2, \dots, h_m\}$ is an orthonormal basis for the Hilbert spaces $L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} f(x')g(x')d\sigma(x'), \quad f, g \in L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}).$$

Thus, for any $f \in L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$, its Fourier-Laplace series converges to f in the L^2 norm, that is, $f(x') = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} a_{m,j} Y_{m,j}(x')$, where the coefficients $a_{m,j}$ are given by

$$a_{m,j} := \langle f, Y_{m,j} \rangle = \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} f(x')Y_{m,j}(x')d\sigma(x'). \quad (2.1)$$

Definition 2.1 For a secondly differentiable function f on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$, set F by

$$F(z) = f\left(\frac{z}{|z|}\right), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}.$$

The Laplace-Beltrami operator Δ on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ is defined by

$$\Delta f(x') := \Delta F(z) \Big|_{z=x'} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z_k^2} F(z) \Big|_{z=x'}, \quad x' \in \mathbf{S}^{n-1}.$$

Essentially, the following lemma is Lemma 2.8 in [7], which can also be found in [2, §6].

Lemma 2.1 For the above h_m , $Y_{m,j}$ and Λ , we have

$$h_m = \binom{m+n-1}{n-1} - \binom{m+n-3}{n-1} \leq C_n m^{n-2}, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (2.2)$$

$$|Y_{m,j}(x')| \leq C_n m^{\frac{n}{2}-1}, \quad \forall x' \in \mathbf{S}^{n-1}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, h_m, \quad (2.3)$$

$$\Lambda Y_{m,j} = -m(m+n-2)Y_{m,j}, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, h_m. \quad (2.4)$$

For $s \in \mathbb{N}$, Λ^s denotes the s -th order Laplace-Beltrami operator. According to (2.4), we have

$$(-\Lambda)^s Y_{m,j}(x') = m^s(m+n-2)^s Y_{m,j}(x'), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, h_m.$$

For $s > 0$, we define the s -th order Laplace-Beltrami operator on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ in a distributive sense by

$$H_m((-\Lambda)^s f)(x') = m^s(m+n-2)^s H_m(f)(x'), \quad m \in \mathbb{N},$$

where f is a distribution on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$, and $H_m(f)$ denotes the orthogonal projection of f onto $\mathcal{H}_m$. We call $f^{(s)} := (-\Lambda)^{\frac{s}{2}} f$ the s -th order derivative of the distribution f . Similar to the definition of Sobolev spaces on $\mathbb{R}^n$, the Sobolev spaces on $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$ can be given as follows (see [13, §2.2] and [15, §1.7]).

Definition 2.2 For $s \geq 0$, the Sobolev space $W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ is defined by

$$W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) := \left\{ f(x') = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} a_{m,j} Y_{m,j}(x') : \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^s(m+n-2)^s \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} a_{m,j}^2 < \infty \right\}$$

with the inner product $\langle f, g \rangle_s := \langle f^{(s)}, g^{(s)} \rangle$.

The “by parts integration” formula is a crucial property of the operator Λ , which can be found in [2, §6] and [7].

Lemma 2.2 Let $f, g \in C^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$, and then

$$\int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} f(x') \Lambda g(x') d\sigma(x') = \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} \Lambda f(x') g(x') d\sigma(x').$$

3 Proof of the Main Results

For $\Omega(x, y') \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \times W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$, by a limit argument in [5, §5] or [3, §2], we may assume that

$$\Omega(x, y') = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} a_{m,j}(x) Y_{m,j}(y') \quad (3.1)$$

is a finite sum, where $a_{m,j}(x)$ are the Fourier-Laplace coefficients given by (2.1).

By (2.4) in Lemma 2.1, Lemma 2.2 and Hölder’s inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{m,j}(x)| &= m^{-s}(m+n-2)^{-s} \left| \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} \Omega(x, z') (-\Lambda)^s Y_{m,j}(z') d\sigma(z') \right| \\ &= m^{-s}(m+n-2)^{-s} \left| \int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} (-\Lambda)^s \Omega(x, z') Y_{m,j}(z') d\sigma(z') \right| \\ &\leq m^{-s}(m+n-2)^{-s} \|(-\Lambda)^s \Omega(x, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})} \|Y_{m,j}\|_{L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Applying the Plancherel theorem, we have

$$\|(-\Lambda)^s \Omega(x, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})}^2 = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^s (m+n-2)^s \sum_{k=1}^{h_m} a_{m,j}^2(x) = \|\Omega(x, \cdot)\|_{W_2^s(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})}^2 < \infty. \quad (3.3)$$

Note that $Y_{m,j}$ can be normalized such that $\|Y_{m,j}\|_{L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})} = 1$. (3.2) and (3.3) imply that

$$|a_{m,j}(x)| \leq C_n m^{-2s}. \quad (3.4)$$

3.1 Proof of Theorem 1.1

According to the representation of $\Omega(x, y')$ in (3.1), we get the following estimate:

$$\mathcal{K}^* f(x) \leq \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} |a_{m,j}(x)| \mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f(x),$$

where

$$\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f(x) = \sup_{\lambda} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iP_{\lambda}(y)} \frac{Y_{m,j}(y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy \right|.$$

By Minkowski's inequality and (3.4), we have

$$\|\mathcal{K}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} \|a_{m,j}\|_{L^\infty} \|\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^{-2s} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} \|\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p}. \quad (3.5)$$

Therefore, it suffices to consider the terms $\|\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p}$. It is easy to see that, for $1 < q < \infty$,

$$L^\infty(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) \subset L^q(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) \subset H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^1 \frac{\omega_q(\delta)}{\delta} d\delta \leq \int_0^1 \frac{\omega_\infty(\delta)}{\delta} d\delta.$$

Then, Theorem B implies that

$$\|\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C(\|Y_{m,j}\|_{L^2(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})} + C(m, j)) \|f\|_{L^p},$$

where $C(m, j) := \int_0^1 \frac{\omega_\infty^{m,j}(\delta)}{\delta} d\delta$, and $\omega_\infty^{m,j}(\delta)$ denotes the continuous modulus of $Y_{m,j}$.

To estimate the constants $C(m, j)$, we need the following Markov inequality, which can be found in [13, §2] and [1].

Lemma 3.1 For $Y_{m,j} \in \mathcal{H}_m$, $x', y' \in \mathbf{S}^{n-1}$, we have

$$|Y_{m,j}(x') - Y_{m,j}(y')| \leq m|x' - y'| \|Y_{m,j}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})}.$$

By Lemma 3.1 and (2.3), we have $C(m, j) \leq C m^{\frac{n}{2}}$ and $\|\mathcal{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n m^{\frac{n}{2}} \|f\|_{L^p}$. Then, (3.5) and (2.2) imply that

$$\|\mathcal{K}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} m^{-2s} m^{\frac{n}{2}} \|f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^{n-2} m^{-2s} m^{\frac{n}{2}} \|f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \|f\|_{L^p},$$

where we use the fact that $\frac{3n}{2} - 2 - 2s < -1$, because $s > \frac{3n-2}{4}$.

3.2 Proof of Theorem 1.2

Maximal operators $\mathfrak{K}^*$ can also be treated as $\mathcal{K}^*$ in the previous subsection. Define

$$\mathfrak{K}_{m,j}^* f(x) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{iQ_\mu(|y|)} \frac{Y_{m,j}(y')}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy \right|.$$

Theorem C shows that

$$\|\mathfrak{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C \|Y_{m,j}\|_{H^1(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})} \|f\|_{L^p} \leq C \|Y_{m,j}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})} \|f\|_{L^p}.$$

Then, in a similar way as (3.5), for $s > \frac{n-1}{2}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathfrak{K}^* f\|_{L^p} &\leq \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} \|a_{m,j}\|_{L^\infty} \|\mathfrak{K}_{m,j}^* f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{h_m} m^{-2s} \|f\|_{L^p} \\ &\leq C_n \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^{n-2} m^{-2s} \|f\|_{L^p} \leq C_n \|f\|_{L^p}. \end{aligned}$$

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