A CHARACTERIZATION FOR THE BOUNDEDNESS OF POSITIVE OPERATORS IN A FILTERED MEASURE SPACE

HITOSHI TANAKA AND YUTAKA TERASAWA

Abstract. In terms of Sawyer type checking condition, a complete characterization is established for which the positive operator in a filtered measure space is bounded from $L^p(d\mu)$ to $L^q(d\mu)$ with $1 < p \leq q < \infty$.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to establish a complete characterization for which the positive operator in a filtered measure space as we introduced in [7] becomes bounded from $L^p(d\mu)$ to $L^q(d\mu)$ with $1 < p \leq q < \infty$. In his elegant paper [8] Sergei Treil gives a simple proof of the following Sawyer type characterization of the two weight estimate for positive dyadic operators:

Let $D$ be a dyadic lattice in $\mathbb{R}^n$, $\alpha_I : D \to [0, \infty)$ be a map and $\mu$ and $\nu$ be Radon measures in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Let $1 < p < \infty$ and $1/p + 1/p' = 1$. Then

$$\left\| \sum_{I \in D} \alpha_I \int_I f \, d\mu 1_I \right\|_{L^p(d\nu)} \leq C_1 \|f\|_{L^p(d\mu)}$$

holds if and only if, for all $I_0 \in D$,

$$\begin{cases} 
\int_{I_0} \left( \sum_{I \in D : I \subseteq I_0} \alpha_I \mu(I) 1_I \right)^p \, d\nu \leq C_2^p \mu(I_0), \\
\int_{I_0} \left( \sum_{I \in D : I \subseteq I_0} \alpha_I \nu(I) 1_I \right)^{p'} \, d\mu \leq C_2^{p'} \nu(I_0).
\end{cases}$$

Moreover, the least possible $C_1$ and $C_2$ are equivalent.

This theorem was first proved for $p = 2$ in [3] by the Bellman function method. Later in [11] this theorem was proved in full generality; the case $L^p(d\mu) \to L^q(d\nu)$, $1 < p \leq q < \infty$, was treated there. However, the construction was complicated and depends very much on the dyadic structure. The proof due to Treil is very simple and, as is mentioned in the end of his paper, all the proofs work well in a more general martingale situation with a lattice structure. In this paper, we shall extend this theorem to a more general martingale situation without a lattice structure for the case $\mu = \nu$ (Theorem 1.1). Our main idea in the proof is substitution of “the stopping moments” in [8], which is also called ”principal cubes” in other literatures, for “the principal sets”, which was first used in [7]. “The stopping moments” and “the principal sets” are constructed from a data function $f$. If we assume a lattice structure, we can assure the commonality of constructions made from different data functions $f$ and $g$. Not assuming a lattice structure, we can expect no commonality, and, this is a reason why we can not extend

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 42B25, 60G46 (primary), 60G40, 60G42 (secondary).

Key words and phrases. conditional expectation; positive operator; filtered measure space; martingale; Sawyer type checking condition; the Carleson embedding theorem.

The first author is supported by the Global COE program at Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, the University of Tokyo, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) (No. 23540187), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and was supported by Fujikai foundation.

The second author is a Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.
the above theorem to a more general martingale situation for the two weight case. The checking condition in the above theorem is called “Sawyer type checking condition”, since this was first introduced by Eric Sawyer in [5, 6].

Let a triplet $(Ω, F, μ)$ be a measure space. Denote by $F^0$ the collection of sets in $F$ with finite measure. The measure space $(Ω, F, μ)$ is called $σ$-finite if there exist sets $E_i ∈ F^0$ such that $∪_{i=0}^∞ E_i = Ω$. In this paper all measure spaces are assumed to be $σ$-finite. Let $A ⊂ F^0$ be an arbitrary subset of $F^0$. An $F$-measurable function $f : Ω → ℝ$ is called $A$-integrable if it is integrable on all sets of $A$, i.e.,

$$1_E f ∈ L^1(F, μ)$$

for all $E ∈ A$.

Denote the collection of all such functions by $L^1_A(F, μ)$.

If $G ⊂ F$ is another $σ$-algebra, it is called a sub-$σ$-algebra of $F$. A function $g ∈ L^1_{G^0}(G, μ)$ is called the conditional expectation of $f ∈ L^1_{G^0}(F, μ)$ with respect to $G$ if it holds uniquely in $L^1_{G^0}(G, μ)$ due to $σ$-finiteness of $(Ω, G, μ)$.

A family of sub-$σ$-algebras $(F_i)_{i ∈ Z}$ is called a filtration of $F$ if $F_i ⊂ F_j ⊂ F$ whenever $i, j ∈ Z$ and $i < j$. We call a quadruplet $(Ω, F, μ; (F_i)_{i ∈ Z})$ a $σ$-finite filtered measure space. We write

$$L := ∩_{i ∈ Z} L^1_{F_i}(F, μ).$$

Notice that $L^1_{F_0}(F, μ) ⊃ L^1_{F_j}(F, μ)$ whenever $i < j$. For a function $f ∈ L$ we will denote $E[f|F_i]$ by $E_i f$. By the tower rule of conditional expectations, a family of functions $E_i f ∈ L^1_{F_i}(F, μ)$ becomes a martingale. By a weight we mean a nonnegative function which belongs to $L$ and, by a convention, we will denote the set of all weights by $L^+$.  

Let $α_i, i ∈ Z$, be a nonnegative bounded $F_i$-measurable function and set $α = (α_i)$. For a function $f ∈ L$ we define a positive operator $T_α f$ by

$$T_α f := ∑_{i ∈ Z} α_i E_i f.$$

The following is our main theorem.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let $1 < p ≤ q < ∞$. Then

$$∥T_α f∥_{L^q(dμ)} ≤ C_1 ∥f∥_{L^p(dμ)}$$

holds if and only if

$$sup_{i ∈ Z} sup_{E ∈ F_i^0} μ(E)^{q−p−1} sup_{i ∈ Z} ∫_E \left( ∑_{j ≥ i} α_j \right)^r dμ \leq C_2 < ∞,$$

where $r := max(q, p')$. Moreover, the least possible $C_1$ and $C_2$ are equivalent.

We remark that the checking condition of Theorem 1.1 looks like the Morrey norm (see, for example, [4]). For a Morrey spaces in a filtered measure spaces with lattice structure see [2].

For a function $f, g ∈ L$ we define a positive bilinear operator $T_α (f, g)$ by

$$T_α (f, g) := ∑_{i ∈ Z} α_i (E_i f)(E_i g).$$
Theorem 1.1 can be proved easily by the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** Let \( 1 < p \leq q < \infty \). Then

\[
\| T_\alpha(f, g) \|_{L^1(d\mu)} \leq C_1 \| f \|_{L^p(d\mu)} \| g \|_{L^r(d\mu)}
\]

holds if and only if, for any \( E \in F_i, i \in \mathbb{Z}, \)

\[
\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
\left( \int_E \left( \sum_{j \geq i} \alpha_j \right)^q \, d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq C_2 \mu(E)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \\
\left( \int_E \left( \sum_{j \geq i} \alpha_j \right)^r \, d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \leq C_2 \mu(E)^{\frac{1}{r}}.
\end{array} \right.
\]

Moreover, the least possible \( C_1 \) and \( C_2 \) are equivalent.

The letter \( C \) will be used for constants that may change from one occurrence to another. Constants with subscripts, such as \( C_1, C_2 \), do not change in different occurrences.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.2

In what follows we shall prove Theorem 1.2. We first list three basic properties of the conditional expectation and the definition of a martingale.

Let \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)\) be a \( \sigma \)-finite measure space and \( \mathcal{G} \) be a sub-\( \sigma \)-algebra of \( \mathcal{F} \). Then the following holds.

(i): Let \( f \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{F}, \mu) \) and \( g \) be a \( \mathcal{G} \)-measurable function. Then the two conditions

\( fg \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{F}, \mu) \) and \( gE[f|\mathcal{G}] \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{G}, \mu) \) are equivalent and we have

\( E[fg|\mathcal{G}] = gE[f|\mathcal{G}] \);

(ii): Let \( f_1, f_2 \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{F}, \mu) \). Then the three conditions

\( E[f_1|\mathcal{G}]f_2 \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{G}, \mu), \quad E[f_1|\mathcal{G}]E[f_2|\mathcal{G}] \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{G}, \mu) \) and \( f_1E[f_2|\mathcal{G}] \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{G}, \mu) \)

are all equivalent and we have

\( E[E[f_1|\mathcal{G}]f_2|\mathcal{G}] = E[f_1|\mathcal{G}]E[f_2|\mathcal{G}] = E[f_1E[f_2|\mathcal{G}]|\mathcal{G}] \);

(iii): Let \( \mathcal{G}_1 \subset \mathcal{G}_2 \subset \mathcal{F} \) be two sub-\( \sigma \)-algebras of \( \mathcal{F} \) and let \( f \in L^1_{\mathcal{G}_0}(\mathcal{F}, \mu) \). Then

\( E[f|\mathcal{G}_1] = E[E[f|\mathcal{G}_2]|\mathcal{G}_1] \).

(i) can be proved by an approximation by simple functions. The property (ii) means that conditional expectation operators are selfadjoint and can be easily deduced from (i). (iii) can be proved easily and called the tower rule of conditional expectations.

**Definition 2.1.** Let \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; (\mathcal{F}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}})\) be a \( \sigma \)-finite filtered measure space. Let \((f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}\) be a sequence of \( \mathcal{F}_i \)-measurable functions. Then the sequence \((f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}\) is called a “martingale” if \( f_i \in L^1_{\mathcal{F}_i}(\mathcal{F}, \mu) \) and \( f_i = E_i f_j \) whenever \( i < j \).

\(^1\) Notice that

\[
\max \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{\mu(E)} \int_E \left( \sum_{j \geq i} \alpha_j \right)^q \, d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \left( \frac{1}{\mu(E)} \int_E \left( \sum_{j \geq i} \alpha_j \right)^r \, d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \right\} = \left( \frac{1}{\mu(E)} \int_E \left( \sum_{j \geq i} \alpha_j \right)^r \, d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{r}}.
\]
From now on we start the proof of Theorem 1.2. Without loss of generality we may assume that $f$ and $g$ belong class $L^+$ and are bounded and have the supports on the finite measure. The “only if” part can be easily proved. Since we have

$$
\int_\Omega \left( \sum_i \alpha_i(E_i f) \right) g \, d\mu = \sum_i \int_\Omega \alpha_i(E_i f) g \, d\mu = \sum_i \int_\Omega \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} \|g\|_{L^q(\mu)}^	heta,
$$

where we have used (ii). By a duality argument, if we take $f = 1_E$, this implies the condition (1.4). We shall prove “if” part of Theorem 1.2.

Let $i_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ be arbitrarily taken and be fixed. By a standard limiting argument, it suffices to prove Theorem 1.2 that the inequality

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{i \geq i_0} \int_\Omega \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu \leq C \left\{ \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} + \|g\|_{L^q(\mu)}^\theta \right\}, \quad \theta := \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q},$$

holds (the rest follows from the homogeneity).

We set

$$
F_i := \{(E_i g)^q \leq (E_i f)^p\} \text{ and } G_i := \Omega \setminus F_i.
$$

We notice that $F_i, G_i \in \mathcal{F}_i$. We shall prove

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{i \geq i_0} \int_\Omega 1_{F_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)}^p$$

and

$$(2.3) \quad \sum_{i \geq i_0} \int_\Omega 1_{G_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu \leq C \|g\|_{L^q(\mu)}^q,$$

Since the proofs of (2.2) and (2.3) can be done in completely symmetric way, we shall only prove (2.2) in the following.

2.1. Construction of principal sets. We now introduce the construction of principal sets as follows. Suppose that $P \in \mathcal{F}_i$ satisfy $\mu(P) > 0$ and, for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$1_p 2^{k-1} < 1_p E_i f \leq 1_p 2^k.$$

We will write $\kappa_1(P) := i$ and $\kappa_2(P) := k$. We define a stopping time

$$\tau_P := 1_p \inf \{ j \geq \kappa_1(P) : E_j f > 2^{\kappa_2(P)+1} \}.$$

We call a set $Q \subset P$ a principal set with respect to $P$ if it satisfies $\mu(Q) > 0$ and there exist $j > \kappa_1(P)$ and $l > \kappa_2(P) + 1$ such that

$$Q = \{ 2^{l-1} < 1_{\{\tau_P = j\}} E_j f \leq 2^l \}.$$

Noticing that such $j$ and $l$ are unique, we will write $\kappa_1(Q) := j$ and $\kappa_2(Q) := l$. Let $\mathcal{P}^*(P)$ be the collection of all principal sets $Q$ with respect to $P$ and let $\mathcal{P}(P) := \bigcup_{Q \in \mathcal{P}^*(P)} Q$. Then it is easy to see that they satisfy the following properties:

$$(iv): 1_{\{\kappa_1(P) \leq j < \tau_P\}} E_j f \leq 2^{\kappa_2(P)+1};$$
$$(v): \mu(\mathcal{P}(P)) \leq 2^{-1} \mu(P).$$

Indeed, (v) follows from the use of weak-(1, 1) boundedness of Doob’s maximal operator:

$$\mu(\mathcal{P}(P)) \leq 2^{-\kappa_2(P)-1} \int_P f \, d\mu = 2^{-\kappa_2(P)-1} \int_P E_i f \, d\mu \leq 2^{-1} \mu(P).$$
To construct the collection $\mathcal{P}$ of principal sets, consider all $P \in \mathcal{F}_0^0$ such that $\mu(P) > 0$ and, for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$P = \{2^{k-1} < \mathcal{E}_0 f \leq 2^k\};$$

that will be the first generation $\mathcal{P}_1^*$ of principal sets. To obtain the second generation of principal sets, for each $P \in \mathcal{P}_1^*$ we construct the collection $\mathcal{P}^*(P)$ of principal sets with respect to $P$, and define the second generation

$$\mathcal{P}_2^* := \bigcup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_1^*} \mathcal{P}^*(P).$$

The next generations are defined inductively:

$$\mathcal{P}_{n+1}^* := \bigcup_{P \in \mathcal{P}_n^*} \mathcal{P}^*(P).$$

We define the collection of principal sets $\mathcal{P}$ by

$$\mathcal{P} := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_n^*.$$

We need the following lemma, which is a Carleson embedding theorem associated with the collection of principal sets $\mathcal{P}$.

**Lemma 2.2.** We have

$$\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mu(P)2^{p(\kappa_2(P) - 1)} \leq 2\|f\|_{L^p(d\mu)}^p.$$

**Proof.** For $\lambda > 0$ let

$$\Gamma_\lambda := \{P \in \mathcal{P} : 2^{\kappa_2(P) - 1} > \lambda\}.$$

Considering the maximal sets with respect to inclusion and using the property (v), we can write

$$\sum_{P \in \Gamma_\lambda} \mu(P) \leq 2 \sum_k \mu(P_k),$$

where the sets $\{P_k\} \subset \Gamma_\lambda$ are nonoverlapping. Since

$$1_{P_k} \lambda < 1_{P_k} 2^{\kappa_2(P_k) - 1} < 1_{P_k} \mathcal{E}_{\kappa_1(P_k)} f$$

for all $P_k$, we have

$$\sum_k P_k \subset \{f^* > \lambda\},$$

where $f^*$ is Doob’s maximal operator defined by

$$f^* := \sup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} |\mathcal{E}_i f|.$$

These imply

$$\sum_{P \in \Gamma_\lambda} \mu(P) \leq 2\mu(\{f^* > \lambda\})$$

and hence

$$\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mu(P)2^{p(\kappa_2(P) - 1)} \leq 2\|f^*\|_{L^p(d\mu)}^p.$$

We have then the desired inequality by Doob’s maximal theorem. □
2.2. Proof of (2.2). Using the principal sets \( \mathcal{P} \), we can decompose the left-hand side of (2.2) as follows:

\[
\sum_{i \geq i_0} \int \Omega \, 1_{F_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1} \int_{P \cap \{i < \tau_P\}} 1_{F_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu.
\]

It follows from the property (iv), the condition (1.4) and Hölder’s inequality that

\[
\sum_{i \geq \kappa_1} \int_{(P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P)) \cap \{i < \tau_P\}} 1_{F_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu.
\]

\[
\leq 2^\kappa_2(P)+1 \int_{P} \left( \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1} \alpha_i \right)^q \left( \sup_{i \geq \kappa_1} 1_{F_i}(E_i g) \right)^{q'} d\mu
\]

\[
\leq 2^\kappa_2(P)+1 \mu(P)^{\frac{q}{p'}} \left\{ \int_{P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P)} \left( \sup_{i \geq \kappa_1} 1_{F_i}(E_i g) \right)^{q'} d\mu \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}}.
\]

The definition of \( F_i \) enables us that

\[
\left( \sup_{i \geq \kappa_1} 1_{F_i}(E_i g) \right)^{q'} \leq \left( \sup_{i \geq \kappa_1} 1_{F_i}(E_i f) \right)^p.
\]

Hölder’s inequality gives

\[
\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1} \int_{(P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P)) \cap \{i < \tau_P\}} 1_{F_i} \alpha_i(E_i f)(E_i g) \, d\mu.
\]

\[
\leq C \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mu(P)^{2p(\kappa_2(P)-1)} \right\}^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \int_{P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P)} (f^*)^p d\mu \right\}^{\frac{q'}{p'}}.
\]

\[
\leq C \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mu(P)^{2p(\kappa_2(P)-1)} \right\}^{\frac{1}{p'}} \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \int_{P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P)} (f^*)^p d\mu \right\}^{\frac{q'}{p'}}.
\]

\[
\leq C \|f\|_{L_p(d\mu)}^{p'},
\]

where we have used Lemma 2.2 \( \frac{p'}{q'} \geq 1 \), the fact that the sets \( P \setminus \mathcal{P}(P) \) are nonoverlapping and Doob’s maximal theorem.
\sum_{i \geq \kappa_1(p)} \int_{P(P) \cap \{i < \tau_p\}} 1_F \alpha_i(\mathcal{E}_i f)(\mathcal{E}_i g) \, d\mu.

\leq 2^{\kappa_2(p)+1} \int_P \left( \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1(p)} \alpha_i \left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i g) \right) \right) \mu(P) \, d\mu

\leq 2^{\kappa_2(p)+1} \left\{ \int_P \left( \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1(p)} \alpha_i \right)^q \, d\mu \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}} \left\{ \int_P \left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i g) \right)^{q'} \, d\mu \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}}

\leq C^{2\kappa_2(p)+1} \mu(P)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left\{ \int_P \left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i g) \right)^{q'} \, d\mu \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}}.

By the definition of $F_i$

\left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i g) \right)^{p} \leq \left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i f) \right)^{p}.

We notice that

\left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i f) \right)^{p} \leq 2^{p(\kappa_2(p)+1)}.

These yield

\left\{ \int_P \left( \sup_{\kappa_1(p) \leq i < \tau_p} 1_F(\mathcal{E}_i g) \right)^{q'} \, d\mu \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}} \leq \left\{ \mu(P)2^{p(\kappa_2(p)+1)} \right\}^{\frac{1}{q'}}.

Thus, we obtain

\sum_{P \in P} \sum_{i \geq \kappa_1(p)} \int_P \left( \mathcal{E}_i f \right)(\mathcal{E}_i g) \, d\mu \leq C \sum_{P \in P} \left( \mu(P)2^{p(\kappa_2(p)+1)-1} \right)^{\theta}

\leq C \left\{ \sum_{P \in P} \mu(P)2^{p(\kappa_2(p)+1)-1} \right\}^{\theta}

\leq C \|f\|^{\theta}_{L^p(d\mu)},

where we have used $\theta \geq 1$ and Lemma 2.2. The proof is now complete.

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Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 153-8914, Japan

E-mail address: htanaka@ms.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 153-8914, Japan

E-mail address: yutaka@ms.u-tokyo.ac.jp