

Weighted Weak Type Hardy's Inequalities

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§ 1. Introduction

Suppose $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $f(x, y)$, $U(x, y)$ and $V(x, y)$ are nonnegative measurable functions on $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$. The Hardy operators P and Q are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} Pf(x, y) &= \int_0^x \int_0^y f(t, s) ds dt, \\ Qf(x, y) &= \int_x^\infty \int_y^\infty f(t, s) ds dt. \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

In the definition given below, the operator T expresses P or Q .

Definition Let $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, we say that (U, V) is a strong type (p, q) weight pair for T , if there is a constant $C > 0$ independent of f so that the following holds

$$\left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty (Tf(x, y))^q U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq C \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/p}, \quad (1.2)$$

and we say that (U, V) is a weak type (p, q) weight pair for T , if there is a constant $C > 0$ independent of f so that for all $a > 0$ and all $f > 0$ the following holds

$$\left[\int_{\{(x, y): Tf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq C/a \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/p}. \quad (1.3)$$

The smallest possible constant C in (1.2) and (1.3), is called the strong and weak norms of T , expressed as $\|T\|_s$ and $\|T\|_w$, respectively.

In 1978, B. Muckenhoupt pointed out^[1] that it is an interesting and difficult open question to give the weight character of the higher dimensional weighted Hardy's inequalities. He pointed out that in two dimensions, if a weight pair (U, V) for T is the strong type (p, q) weight pair, then the following holds:

$$\sup_{\substack{r > 0 \\ s > 0}} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right) \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{p-1} < \infty, \quad (1.4)$$

the converse, however, is false. There is an example of (U, V) that satisfies (1.4), but (1.2) can't hold for all f .

* Received . 16, 1987.

In 1984, B. Muckenhoupt raised this question again^[2].

Although (1.4) isn't the weight character of the strong type weighted inequalities for the operator P , it will be proved in this paper that (1.4) is the weight character of the weak type weighted inequalities for the operator P .

Throughout the paper, $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ and $0, \infty$ is taken as 0 .

Theorem 1 If $1 < p, q < \infty$, then (U, V) is a weak type (p, q) weight pair for P , if and only if

$$K = \sup_{\substack{r>0 \\ s>0}} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{1/p'} < \infty. \quad (1.5)$$

Moreover, $K = \|P\|_w$.

Theorem 2 If $1 < p, q < \infty$, then (U, V) is a weak type (p, q) weight pair for Q , if and only if

$$J = \sup_{\substack{r>0 \\ s>0}} \left[\int_0^r \int_0^s U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \left[\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right]^{1/p'} < \infty. \quad (1.6)$$

Moreover, $J = \|Q\|_w$.

Theorem 1 and theorem 2 given above are only the results when $n=2$, but these results can be extended to $n>2$ by the method given in this paper.

§ 2. Proof of Theorem 1

We begin with the necessity part. Let $r>0, s>0$ and denote $h(r, s) = \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{1/p'}$.

i) If $h(r, s) = 0$, then $K = 0$ by the convention.

ii) If $h(r, s) = \infty$, then $V(x, y)^{-1/p}$ isn't in $L^{p'}[(0, r) \times (0, s)]$. Hence there is a nonnegative $g(x, y)$ in $L^p[(0, r) \times (0, s)]$ with $g(x, y)V(x, y)^{-1/p}$ nonintegrable on $(0, r) \times (0, s)$. Now, if

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} g(x, y)V(x, y)^{-1/p} & \text{on } (0, r) \times (0, s) \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases}$$

then $Pf(x, y) = \int_0^x \int_0^y f(\omega, \tau) d\tau d\omega = \int_0^x \int_0^y g(\omega, \tau)V(\omega, \tau)^{-1/p} d\tau d\omega = \infty$, for $x>r, y>s$.

Therefore $(r, \infty) \times (s, \infty) \subset \{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}$ for any $a>0$. Since (U, V) is the weak type (p, q) weight pair for P and $a>0$ is arbitrary,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} &\leq \left[\int_{\{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \\ &\leq \|P\|_w / a \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \|P\|_w / a \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s g(x, y)^p dy dx \right)^{1/p} = \|P\|_w / a \|g\|_{L^p} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $K = 0$ in this case.

iii) Suppose then that $0 < h(r, s) < \infty$. If $p = 1$, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and select a set E with positive measure $|E|$, $E \subset (0, r) \times (0, s)$, so that

$$(*) \quad V(x, y) \leq \varepsilon + \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{(0, r) \times (0, s)} V(x, y)$$

for all $(x, y) \in E$.

If $f(x, y)$ is the characteristic function of E and $x \geq r, y \geq s$, then $Pf(x, y) = |E|$. When m is large enough we have $a = |E| - 1/m > 0$ and $[r, \infty) \times [s, \infty) \subset \{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > |E| - 1/m\}$. Since (U, V) is the weak type $(1, q)$ weight pair for operator P , this implies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx &\leq \int \int_{\{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > |E| - 1/m\}} U(x, y) dy dx \\ &\leq \|P\|_w |E|^{-1/m} \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y) V(x, y) dy dx \right)^q. \end{aligned}$$

Making $m \rightarrow \infty$ in this inequality and observing $(*)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx &\leq \|P\|_w |E|^{-q} \left(\int_E V(x, y) dy dx \right)^q \\ &\leq \|P\|_w |E|^{-q} \left[\varepsilon + \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{(0, r) \times (0, s)} V(x, y) \right]^q |E|^q, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} \left(\operatorname{ess\,inf}_{(0, r) \times (0, s)} V(x, y) \right)^{-1} \leq \|P\|_w < \infty.$$

Hence we obtain $K \leq \|P\|_w$ when $p = 1$.

If $p > 1$, we denote

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} & \text{on } (0, r) \times (0, s) \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases}$$

then $Pf(x, y) = \int_0^x \int_0^y f(\omega, \tau) d\tau d\omega = \int_0^r \int_0^s V(\omega, \tau)^{-1/(p-1)} d\tau d\omega = [h(r, s)]^{p'}$ for $x \geq r, y \geq s$.

If m is large enough, then $a = [h(r, s)]^{p'} - 1/m > 0$ and $[r, \infty) \times [s, \infty) \subset \{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > [h(r, s)]^{p'} - 1/m\}$. Since (U, V) is the weak type (p, q) weight pair for operator P , this implies

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} &\leq \left[\int \int_{\{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \\ &\leq \|P\|_w a^{-1} \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \|P\|_w [h(r, s)^{p'} - 1/m]^{-1} \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{1/p} \end{aligned}$$

Let $m \rightarrow \infty$ in this inequality, notice that $h(r, s)^{p'} = \int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx$,

then we obtain

$$\left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx\right)^{1/q} \leq \|P\|_w \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx\right)^{-1/p'}.$$

Thus, in and case, we have $K \leq \|P\|_w < \infty$.

Next we prove the sufficiency part of theorem 1. If $\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx = \infty$,

$dx = \infty$, then the result is obvious, hence we may suppose $\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx < \infty$.

First we prove the result of the theorem when $\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta f(x, y) dy dx = \infty$ for an any $\varepsilon > 0, \delta > 0$.

In fact, we must have $\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta V(x, y)^{1-p'} dy dx = \infty$ for any $\varepsilon > 0, \delta > 0$ in this case.

If it is not so, because $\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta [V(x, y)^{-1/p}]^p dy dx = \int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta V(x, y)^{-p'} dy dx < \infty$, then $V(x, y)^{-1/p}$ is in $L^{p'}((0, \varepsilon) \times (0, \delta))$. Hence

$$\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta [f(x, y) V(x, y)^{1/p}]^p dy dx \leq \int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx < \infty$$

and this yields $f(x, y) V(x, y)^{1/p} \in L^p((0, \varepsilon) \times (0, \delta))$. From Holder inequality we have $f(x, y) = [f(x, y) V(x, y)^{1/p}] [V(x, y)^{-1/p}] \in L^1((0, \varepsilon) \times (0, \delta))$, but this is contradictory to $\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta f(x, y) dy dx = \infty$. Therefore we must have

$$\int_0^\varepsilon \int_0^\delta V(x, y)^{1-p'} dy dx = \infty \text{ for any } \varepsilon > 0, \delta > 0.$$

Since the weight pair (U, V) satisfies (1.5), we have $\int_\varepsilon^\infty \int_\delta^\infty U(x, y) dy dx = 0$ for any $\varepsilon > 0, \delta > 0$ by the convention. This implies $U(x, y) = 0$ almost everywhere on $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$.

Thus, for any $a > 0$, we obtain

$$\left[\int_{\{(x, y): Pf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq C/a \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/p},$$

therefore the conclusion holds in this case.

Next we will give the proof of the theorem when there are $r > 0, s > 0$ such that

$$0 < \int_0^r \int_0^s f(x, y) dy dx = A < \infty.$$

Because $f(x, y)$ is integrable on $(0, r) \times (0, s)$ in this case, hence $Pf(x, y)$ is a continuous function on $(0, r) \times (0, s)$. Therefore, for any $a, 0 < a < A$, there must be a point (a, b) in $(0, r) \times (0, s)$ so that $Pf(a, b) = a$.

Now we construct a sequence of function.

$$g_n(x, y) = \begin{cases} f(x, y) & \text{on } (0, a] \times (0, b] \cup [a/2^n, \infty) \times [b, \infty) \cup [b/2^n, b] \times (a, \infty) \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Obviously the conditions below are satisfied by sequence of function.

i) $0 \leq g_n(x, y) \leq g_{n+1}(x, y)$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(x, y) = f(x, y)$ on $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$;

ii) $Pg_n(x, y) \leq Pg_{n+1}(x, y)$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Pg_n(x, y) = Pf(x, y)$ on $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$;

iii) $\{(x, y) : Pg_n(x, y) > a\} \subset \{(x, y) : Pg_{n+1}(x, y) > a\} \subset \{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ on $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$;

iv) for any n and $(x, y) \in (0, a] \times (0, b]$, $Pg_n(x, y) \leq Pg_n(a, b) = Pf(a, b) = a$, in particular, $Pg_n(a/2^n, b/2^n) \leq Pg_n(a, b) = a$.

From this we deduce $\{(x, y) : Pg_n(x, y) > a\} \subset [a/2^n, \infty) \times [b/2^n, \infty)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\{(x, y) : Pg_n(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx &\leq \int_{a/2^n}^{\infty} \int_{b/2^n}^{\infty} U(x, y) dy dx \\ &\leq K^q \left[\int_0^{a/2^n} \int_0^{b/2^n} V(x, y)^{1-p'} dy dx \right]^{-q/p'} \\ &\leq (K/a)^q [Pg_n(a/2^n, b/2^n)]^q \left[\int_0^{a/2^n} \int_0^{b/2^n} V(x, y)^{1-p'} dy dx \right]^{-q/p'}, \end{aligned}$$

by Holder inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} [Pg_n(a/2^n, b/2^n)]^q &= \left(\int_0^{a/2^n} \int_0^{b/2^n} g_n(x, y) dy dx \right)^q \\ &\leq \left[\int_0^{a/2^n} \int_0^{b/2^n} g_n(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{q/p} \left[\int_0^{a/2^n} \int_0^{b/2^n} V(x, y)^{1-p'} dy dx \right]^{q/p'}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\left[\iint_{\{(x, y) : Pg_n(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq K/a \left[\int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/p}.$$

Making $n \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\left[\iint_{\{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq K/a \left[\int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/p}$$

for $0 < a < A$.

If $a \geq A$, then we may construct a sequence of function:

$$h_n(x, y) = \begin{cases} f(x, y) & \text{on } (0, r] \times (0, s] \cup [r/2^n, \infty) \times (s, \infty) \cup [s/2^n, s] \times (r, \infty) \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

$$n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and the sequence of function is provided with the same properties of $\{g_n(x, y)\}$.

By the method given in the proof for $0 < a < A$, we still have in $a \geq A$

$$\left[\iint_{\{(x, y) : Ph_n(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq K/a \left(\int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p}$$

therefore,

$$\left[\iint_{\{(x, y) : Pf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq K/a \left(\int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p},$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Summing up the discussion above we know that if the weight pair (U, V) satisfies (1.5), then for any $a > 0$ and $f(x, y)$ we must have

$$\left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq K/a \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y) V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p}.$$

Since $K < \infty$, hence (U, V) is the weak type (p, q) weight pair for operator p and $K \geq \|P\|_w$. This is the proof of the sufficiency part.

From the process of the proving of the necessity and sufficiency we know $K = \|P\|$. The proof of theorem 1 is completed.

§ 3. Proof of Theorem 2

First let us give a lemma.

Lemma $(U(x, y), V(x, y))$ is a strong (or weak) type (p, q) weight pair for operator Q if and only if $(1/(xy)^2 U(1/x, 1/y), (x, y)^{2(p-1)} V(1/x, 1/y))$ is the strong (or weak) type (p, q) weight pair for operator P .

Proof By the definition of operators P and Q we have

$$\begin{aligned} Qf(x, y) &= \int_x^\infty \int_y^\infty f(t, s) ds dt \\ &= \int_0^{1/x} \int_0^{1/y} f(1/t, 1/s) 1/(st)^2 ds dt = Pg(1/x, 1/y), \end{aligned}$$

where $g(x, y) = 1/(xy)^2 f(1/x, 1/y)$, therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty (Qf(x, y))^q U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} &= \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty (Pg(1/x, 1/y))^q U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \\ &= \left[\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty (Pg(x, y))^q 1/(xy)^2 U(1/x, 1/y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \end{aligned}$$

and for any $a > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty U(x, y) dy dx &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \\ \{(x, y): Qf(x, y) > a\} &= \{(1/x, 1/y): Pg(1/x, 1/y) > a\} \\ &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty 1/(xy) U(1/x, 1/y) dy dx \\ \{(x, y): Pg(x, y) > a\} & \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty [f(1/x, 1/y)]^p V(1/x, 1/y) 1/(xy)^2 dy dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty [1/(xy)^2 f(1/x, 1/y)]^p (xy)^{2(p-1)} V(1/x, 1/y) dy dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty g(x, y)^p (xy)^{2(p-1)} V(1/x, 1/y) dy dx \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

From the relationship above we can deduce the result of lemma immediately.

The conclusion of theorem 2 can be obtained from theorem 1 and lemma.

The proof of theorem 2 is omitted.

References

- [1] B. Mukenhoupt, Proc.Symp. in pure Math., 35(1) (1979), 69-83.
- [2] B. Mukenhoupt, "Weighted norm inequalities", Lecture notes in Math., 1043, 318-321.

加 权 弱 型 Hardy 不 等 式

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摘 要

设 $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, $f(x, y), U(x, y), V(x, y)$ 是 $(0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$ 上的非负可测函数。记

$$(1.1) \quad Pf(x, y) = \int_0^x \int_0^y f(t, s) ds dt$$

$$Qf(x, y) = \int_x^\infty \int_y^\infty f(t, s) ds dt$$

称算子 P, Q 为二维 Hardy 算子。在下面的定义中, 算子 T 表 P 或 Q 。

定义 如存在常数 $C > 0$, 使对一切 $f(x, y)$ 成立着

$$(1.2) \quad \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty [Tf(x, y)]^q U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} \leq C \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p}$$

则称 (U, V) 关于算子 T 是强 (p, q) 型权对; 如存在常数 $C > 0$, 使对一切 $f(x, y)$ 和 $a > 0$, 成立着

$$(1.3) \quad \left[\iint_{\{(x, y): Tf(x, y) > a\}} U(x, y) dy dx \right]^{1/q} \leq Ca^{-1} \left(\int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(x, y)^p V(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/p}$$

则称 (U, V) 关于算子 T 是弱 (p, q) 型权对。使 (1.2)、(1.3) 式成立的最小常数 C , 分别称为 T 的强范数和弱范数, 记作 $\|T\|_s, \|T\|_w$ 。

1978 年, B. Muckenhoupt 指出^[1], 给出高维形式的加权 Hardy 不等式的权函数特征, 是个有意义而又困难的问题。他指出, 仅在二维的情形下, 如权对 (U, V) 关于算子 P 是强 (p, p) 型权对, 则有下列结果:

$$(1.4) \quad \sup_{\substack{r \geq 0 \\ s \geq 0}} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right) \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{p-1} < \infty.$$

但有反例表明, 当 $1 < p < \infty$ 时, 存在满足 (1.4) 式的 (U, V) , 却不能使 (1.2) 式对一切 f 成立。

1984 年, B. Muckenhoupt 再次提出上述问题^[2]。

虽 (1.4) 式不再是算子 P 的强型加权不等式的权函数特征, 然而本文证明了, 它却完全刻划了 P 的弱型加权不等式的权对特征。

定理 1 $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, 则 (U, V) 关于算子 P 为弱 (p, q) 型权对的充分必要条件为

$$(1.5) \quad K = \sup_{\substack{r \geq 0 \\ s \geq 0}} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{1/p'} < \infty,$$

此外 $K = \|P\|_w$ 。

定理 2 $1 \leq p, q < \infty$, 则 (U, V) 关于算子 Q 为弱 (p, q) 型权对的充分必要条件为

$$(1.6) \quad J = \sup_{\substack{r \geq 0 \\ s \geq 0}} \left(\int_0^r \int_0^s U(x, y) dy dx \right)^{1/q} \left(\int_r^\infty \int_s^\infty V(x, y)^{-1/(p-1)} dy dx \right)^{1/p'} < \infty,$$

此外, $J = \|Q\|_w$ 。

上述定理 1、定理 2 仅是 $n=2$ 的结果, 但用文中的方法完全可将其推广至 $n>2$ 的情形。