

A REMARK ON A PAPER OF F. CHIARENZA AND M. FRASCA

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ABSTRACT. In 1990 F. Chiarenza and M. Frasca published a paper in which they generalized a result of C. Fefferman on estimates of the integral of $|bu|^p$ through the integral of $|Du|^p$ for $p > 1$. Formally their proof is valid only for $d \geq 3$. We present here further generalization with a different proof in which D is replaced with the fractional power of the Laplacian for any dimension $d \geq 1$.

Let an integer $d \geq 1$ and let \mathbb{R}^d be a Euclidean space of points $x = (x^1, \dots, x^d)$. Fix $\alpha \in (0, d)$ and consider the Riesz potential

$$R_\alpha f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(x+y)}{|y|^{d-\alpha}} dy.$$

We denote by $B_r(x)$ the open ball of radius r centered at x , $B_r = B_r(0)$, \mathbb{B}_r the collection of $B_r(x)$, $S_1 = \{|x| = 1\}$. Our main result is the following, in which r, p, A are some numbers and $b = b(x)$ is a measurable function.

Theorem 1. *Assume $\alpha \leq r$, $1 < r < p \leq d$, $b \geq 0$, $f \in L_r$, and for any $\rho > 0$ and $B \in \mathbb{B}_\rho$.*

$$\left(\int_B b^p dx \right)^{1/p} \leq A\rho^{-\alpha}.$$

Then

$$I := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^r |R_\alpha f|^r dx \leq N(\alpha, d, r, p) A^r \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^r dx. \quad (0.1)$$

Below by N we denote generic constants depending only on α, d, r, p, q .

Corollary 2. *If $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, then*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^r |u|^r dx \leq N A^r \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u|^r dx$$

and, if $\alpha = 1$ and hence $d \geq 2$, (the Chiarenza-Frasca result)

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^r |u|^r dx \leq N A^r \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |Du|^r dx.$$

Indeed, $f := (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u$ satisfies $f \in L_r$ and $R_\alpha f = u$ and the L_r -norms of Du and $(-\Delta)^{1/2} u$ are equivalent.

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Remark 3. The author have used the Chiarenza-Frasca theorem in a few papers leading to [5] about strong solutions of Itô's equations. Theorem 1 paves the way to treat equations driven by Lévy rather than Wiener processes.

We prove Theorem 1 adapting to the “elliptic” setting the proof of Theorem 4.1 of [4]. We need two auxiliary and certainly well-known results in which \mathbb{M} is the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator.

Lemma 4. *If $1 < q \leq p$, it holds that*

$$R_\alpha(b^q) \leq NA(\mathbb{M}(b^q))^{1-1/q}.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} R_\alpha b^q(0) &= N \int_0^\infty r^{\alpha-1} \int_{S_1} b^q(r\theta) \sigma(d\theta) dr \\ &= N \int_0^\infty r^{\alpha-d} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{B_r} b^q dx dr \\ &\leq N \int_0^\infty r^{\alpha-d-1} \int_{B_r} b^q dx dr = N \int_0^\rho + N \int_\rho^\infty \\ &\leq N \rho^\alpha \mathbb{M}(b^q) + N \rho^{\alpha-q\alpha} A^q, \end{aligned}$$

where we used that

$$\int_{B_r} b^q dx \leq \left(\int_{B_r} b^p dx \right)^{q/p} \leq A^q r^{-q\alpha}.$$

For

$$\rho^{-q\alpha} = \mathbb{M}(b^q)/A^{-q}, \quad \rho^\alpha = A[\mathbb{M}(b^q)]^{-1/q}$$

we get the result. \square

Lemma 5. *For any $\rho > 0$*

$$I := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^p \mathbb{M} I_{B_\rho} dx \leq NA^p \rho^{d-p\alpha}. \quad (0.2)$$

Proof. We have

$$\mathbb{M} I_{B_\rho} \leq N(I_{B_\rho} + I_{|x|>\rho} \frac{\rho^d}{|x|^d})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^p I_{B_\rho} &\leq NA^p \rho^{d-p\alpha}, \\ \rho^d \int_\rho^\infty r^{-d} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{B_r} b^p dx dr &\leq d \rho^d \int_\rho^\infty r^{-d-1} \int_{B_r} b^p dx dr \\ &\leq N \rho^d A^p \int_\rho^\infty r^{-1-p\alpha} dr = N \rho^{d-p\alpha} A^p. \end{aligned}$$

This yields the result. \square

Proof of Theorem 1. It suffices to concentrate on $f \geq 0$. Then first assume that $b^p \in A_1$, that is $\mathbb{M}(b^p) \leq Nb^p$. Observe that for $v = R_\alpha f$ we have

$$I = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (b^r v^{r-1}) R_\alpha f \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} R_\alpha (b^r v^{r-1}) f \, dx \leq \|f\|_{L_r} \|R_\alpha (b^r v^{r-1})\|_{L_{r'}}, \quad (0.3)$$

where $r' = r/(r-1)$.

Next, take $\gamma > 0$, such that $(1+\gamma)r \leq p$, $1+\gamma r' \leq p$, and $r \geq 1+\gamma$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} R_\alpha (b^r v^{r-1}) &= R_\alpha (b^{1+\gamma} (b^{r-1-\gamma} v^{r-1})) \\ &\leq \left(R_\alpha (b^{(1+\gamma)r}) \right)^{1/r} \left(R_\alpha (b^{r-\gamma r'} v^r) \right)^{(r-1)/r}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\|R_\alpha (b^r v^{r-1})\|_{L_{r'}} \leq \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^{r-\gamma r'} v^r R_\alpha \left[\left(R_\alpha (b^{(1+\gamma)r}) \right)^{1/(r-1)} \right] dx \right)^{(r-1)/r}.$$

Now in light of (0.3) we see that, to prove the theorem in our particular case, it only remains to show that

$$R_\alpha \left[\left(R_\alpha (b^{(1+\gamma)r}) \right)^{1/(r-1)} \right] \leq N b^{\gamma r'} A^{r'}. \quad (0.4)$$

By observing that $1 < (1+\gamma)r \leq p$ and using Lemma 4 we get that

$$R_\alpha (b^{(1+\gamma)r}) \leq N A (\mathbb{M}(b^{(1+\gamma)r}))^{1-1/(r+\gamma r)},$$

where by assumption and Hölder's inequality

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbb{M}(b^{(1+\gamma)r}))^{1-1/(r+\gamma r)} &= [(\mathbb{M}(b^{(1+\gamma)r}))^{1/(r+\gamma r)}]^{(1+\gamma)r-1} \\ &\leq N b^{(1+\gamma)r-1} = N b^{r-1+\gamma r}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$R_\alpha \left[\left(R_\alpha (b^{(1+\gamma)r}) \right)^{1/(r-1)} \right] \leq N A^{1/(r-1)} R_\alpha b^{1+\gamma r'}.$$

By Lemma 4

$$R_\alpha b^{1+\gamma r'} \leq N A (\mathbb{M}(b^{1+\gamma r'}))^{1-1/(1+\gamma r')} \leq N A b^{\gamma r'}.$$

This yields (0.4) and proves the lemma in our particular case.

We now get rid of the assumption that $\mathbb{M}(b^p) \leq N b^p$ as in [1]. For $p_0 = (r+p)/2$, $p_1 = (r+p_0)/2$ we have $b^{p_1} \leq (\mathbb{M}(b^{p_0}))^{p_1/p_0} := \tilde{b}^{p_1}$ and since $p_1/p_0 < 1$, \tilde{b}^{p_1} is an A_1 -weight with the A_1 -constant depending only on p_1/p_0 (see, for instance, [3], p. 158). Therefore, (0.1) holds with \tilde{b} in place of b and it only remains to show that for any x, ρ ,

$$\int_{B_\rho(x)} \tilde{b}^{p_1} \, dx \leq N \rho^{d-p_1\alpha} A^{p_1}. \quad (0.5)$$

Of course, we may assume that $x = 0$.

Then by Hölder's inequality we see that the left-hand side of (0.5) is less than

$$N\rho^{d(p-p_1)/p} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathbb{M}(b^{p_0}))^{p/p_0} I_{B_\rho} dx \right)^{p_1/p},$$

where the integral by a Fefferman-Stein Lemma 1, p. 111 of [2] and the fact that $p/p_0 > 1$ is dominated by

$$N \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} b^p \mathbb{M} I_{B_\rho} dx \leq N A^p \rho^{d-p\alpha},$$

where we used Lemma 5. Hence,

$$\int_{B_\rho} \tilde{b}^{p_1} dx \leq N \rho^{d(p-p_1)/p} A^{p_1} \rho^{p_1 d/p - p_1 \alpha}$$

which is (0.5). The theorem is proved. \square

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