The continuity of maximal operators in Sobolev and BV spaces

Cristian González-Riquelme

IMPA, Brazil

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For $f \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ we define the uncentered Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator as

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Image: A matrix and a matrix

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$$\widetilde{M}f(x) = \sup_{B \ni x} \int_{B} |f|.$$

This is an important object in analysis. Particularly, it is useful when proving pointwise convergence a.e.

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And what about the *p*-variation of the maximal function?

Motivated by the applications to potential theory, interest about the behavior of these maximal functions at the derivative level arose.

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is bounded from $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to itself, where p > 1. Later, Luiro proved the continuity of this map.

The endpoint case p = 1

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This *case* has attracted interest in the last decades. Certainly, $f \mapsto Mf$ is unbounded from $W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to itself. However, we are interested at the derivative level behavior, therefore the natural map to analyze is

 $f\mapsto \nabla \widetilde{M}f.$

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Image: A matrix

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- We have that $f \mapsto \nabla \widetilde{M}f$ is bounded from $W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \to L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ when restricted to radial functions (Luiro 16').

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- We have that $f \mapsto \nabla M_c f$ is bounded from $W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}) \to L^1(\mathbb{R})$ (Kurka 12').

Proof of Tanaka's result

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The proof is based on the following claim:

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Figure: No local maxima

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The continuity in d = 1

Image: A matrix and a matrix

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$$M_R f(x) = \sup_{r>0} \int_{[x,x+r]} |f|.$$

and $M_L f$ is defined analogously but to the left. Is is possible to observe that $\widetilde{M} = \max\{M_R, M_L\}$.

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The approach of the authors was based on a reduction. First, they proved that it was enough to prove the continuity of the maps $f \mapsto \nabla M_L f$ and $f \mapsto \nabla M_R f$. This is based in the aforementioned property $\widetilde{M} = \max\{M_R, M_L\}$. Why it is useful to do this reduction? because these operators have nicer properties.

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After settling those properties the remaining argument is a carefully implemented measure theoretical argument based on a dichotomy and the Brezis-Lieb Lemma.

Monotonicity properties

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Image: A matrix

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from where we have $M_R f(x_2) > M_R f(x_1)$, from where we conclude.

What happens in the radial case?

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So, a main objective is to construct some suitable replacement for these M_R and M_L in higher dimensions.

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Carneiro, G-R, Madrid, 2020 We have that the map $f \mapsto \nabla \widetilde{M} f$ is continuous from $W^{1,1}_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$. In this context, we obtained the following.

Carneiro, G-R, Madrid, 2020

We have that the map $f \mapsto \nabla \widetilde{M} f$ is continuous from $W^{1,1}_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Establishing, thus, the first result of this kind (in the classical setting) for **higher dimensions**.

Control near the origin

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It is possible to prove that if $f_j \to f$ in $W^{1,1}_{rad}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ then, for every $\rho > 0$ we have that $\widetilde{M}f_j \to \widetilde{M}f$ uniformly in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(0,\rho)$.

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The remaining of the proof is a technical measure theoretical argument, based on the **Brezis-Lieb lemma** and inspired in the one-dimensional result.

The one-dimensional endpoint continuity program

In the aforementioned work Carneiro, Madrid and Pierce proposed a continuity program in d = 1 for several maximal operators of interest.

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$$M_{\beta}f(x) := \sup_{r>0} r^{\beta} \oint_{B(x,r)} |f|.$$

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$$M_{eta}f(x):=\sup_{r>0}\,r^{eta}\int_{B(x,r)}|f|.$$

The boundedness of $f \mapsto \nabla M_{\beta} f$ from $W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^{\frac{d}{d-\beta}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ was recently established by Weigt.

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	$W^{1,1}$ -continuity; continuous setting	BV-continuity; continuous setting	$W^{1,1}$ -continuity; discrete setting	BV-continuity; discrete setting
Centered classical maximal operator	OPEN: Question A	OPEN: Question C	YES^2	OPEN: Question D
Uncentered classical maximal operator	YES: Thm 1	OPEN: Question B	YES^2	YES: Thm 2
Centered fractional maximal operator	OPEN ¹ : Question F	NO ¹ : Thm 4	YES^3	NO ¹ : Thm 6
Uncentered fractional maximal operator	OPEN: Question E	NO: Thm 3	YES^3	NO: Thm 5

Figure: Endpoint continuity program

TABLE 1. Endpoint continuity program

	$W^{1,1}$ -continuity; continuous setting	BV-continuity; continuous setting	$W^{1,1}$ -continuity; discrete setting	BV-continuity; discrete setting
Centered classical maximal operator	OPEN: Question A	OPEN: Question C	YES^2	OPEN: Question D
Uncentered classical maximal operator	YES: Thm 1	OPEN: Question B	YES^2	YES: Thm 2
Centered fractional maximal operator	OPEN ¹ : Question F	NO ¹ : Thm 4	YES^3	NO ¹ : Thm 6
Uncentered fractional maximal operator	OPEN: Question E	NO: Thm 3	YES^3	NO: Thm 5

Figure: After Madrid and Beltran-Madrid

The $BV(\mathbb{R})$ setting

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What we know about this map?Aldaz and Perez-Lazaro in 07' proved that

$Var(\widetilde{M}f) \leq Var(f).$

What we know about this map?Aldaz and Perez-Lazaro in 07' proved that $Var(\widetilde{M}f) \leq Var(f).$

Also, for $f \in BV(\mathbb{R})$, we have that $\widetilde{M}f$ is absolutely continuous.

As we established before, this continuity would imply the continuity of $f \mapsto \nabla \widetilde{M} f$ from $W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}) \mapsto L^1(\mathbb{R})$.

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However, the proof of that result cannot be adapted (at least directly) to the BV case. **Why**?

• Our auxiliar maximal operators are not even continuous in this case!

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Figure: Discontinuity

• The derivative f' does not tell the full story about the variation of f.

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- Some classical formulas about the derivative $\nabla \widetilde{M}f$ do not hold. Those formulas are used in order to determine the pointwise convergence at the derivative level.
- Since f does not necessarily go to 0 at ∞ we need to consider the possibility of *good balls* with infinite radius.

Main Theorem

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G-R., Kosz, 2020

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G-R., Kosz, 2020

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We want to prove that $Var(\widetilde{M}f_j - \widetilde{M}f) \to 0$ when $f_j \to f$ in $BV(\mathbb{R})$.

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We conclude by a measure theoretical argument based on Brezis-Lieb lemma.

TABLE	1.	Endpoint	continuity	program
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	$W^{1,1}-$ continuity; continuous setting	BV-continuity; continuous setting	$W^{1,1}-$ continuity; discrete setting	BV-continuity; discrete setting
Centered classical maximal operator	OPEN	OPEN	YES^2	YES^4
Uncentered classical maximal operator	YES^1	YES: Theorem 1	YES^2	YES^1
Centered fractional maximal operator	YES^5	$\rm NO^1$	YES^3	$\rm NO^1$
Uncentered fractional maximal operator	YES^4	$\rm NO^1$	YES^3	$\rm NO^1$

Figure: The program nowadays

Thank you for your attention