

Maximal operators and Fourier transforms of self-similar measures

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Abstract

A self-similar measure on \mathbb{R}^n is defined to be a probability measure satisfying

$$\mu = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j \mu \circ S_j^{-1} + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j (\mu * \mu) \circ T_j^{-1},$$

where $S_j x = \rho_j R_j x + b_j$, $T_j x = \eta_j Q_j x + c_j$ are contractive similarities, $0 < \rho_j < 1$, $0 < \eta_j < \frac{1}{2}$, $0 < p_j < 1$, $0 < q_j < 1$, $\sum_{j=1}^N p_j + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j = 1$, R_j, Q_j are orthogonal matrix and $\mu * \mu$ is the convolution of two measures.

When $M = 0$, μ is a linear self-similar measure, we establish the asymptotic behavior of averages of the derivative of the Fourier transform of μ , such as

$$\int_{|x| \leq R} \left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^\alpha \hat{\mu}(x) \right|^2 dx = O(R^{n-\beta})$$

for any order derivation of $\hat{\mu}(x)$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$ under certain additional hypotheses.

When $M > 0$, μ is a nonlinear self-similar measure, we get some results of L^p boundedness for maximal operators of μ , from the pointwise asymptotic estimate of the Fourier transform of μ made by Strichartz.

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1. Introduction

The Fourier transform, has been used to study problems of pointwise convergence for different kind of averages. This method was investigated by Stein, who considered the maximal spherical operators

$$\mathcal{M}f(x) = \sup_{t>0} \left| \int_{|y|=1} f(x - ty) d\sigma(y) \right|, \quad (1.1)$$

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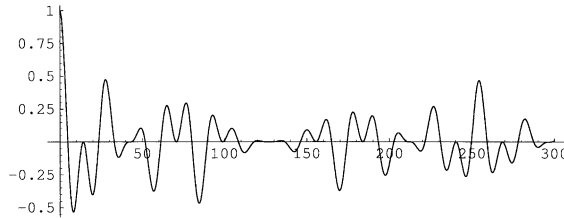


Fig. 1. The graph of $F(x) = \hat{\mu}(x)/e^{ix/2}$ where μ , is the Cantor measure with $\rho = \frac{1}{3}$.

where σ is the Lebesgue measure in the unit sphere S^{n-1} . Stein showed that \mathcal{M} is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if $p > n/(n - 1)$, where f is initially taken to be in the class of Schwartz functions. Bourgain [1] has succeeded in extending this result to \mathbb{R}^2 and Greenleaf [6], Sogge and Stein [12], Rubio de Francia [4], Iosevich and Sawyer [8] extended this result to different cases. In this paper, we will extend Stein’s result to (nonlinear) self-similar measures introduced by Hutchinson [7].

A (linear) self-similar measure on \mathbb{R}^n was defined by Hutchinson to be a probability measure satisfying

$$\mu = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j \mu \circ S_j^{-1}, \tag{1.2}$$

where S_j are contractive similarities and weights p_j are probabilities. The following nonlinear self-similar measures were introduced by Glickenstein and Strichartz [5]. The identities have the form

$$\mu = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j \mu \circ S_j^{-1} + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j (\mu * \mu) \circ T_j^{-1}, \tag{1.3}$$

where $S_j x = \rho_j R_j x + b_j$, $T_j x = \eta_j Q_j x + c_j$ are contractive similarities, $0 < \rho_j < 1$, $0 < \eta_j < \frac{1}{2}$, $0 < p_j < 1$, $0 < q_j < 1$, $\sum_{j=1}^N p_j + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j = 1$, R_j, Q_j are orthogonal matrix and $\mu * \mu$, is the convolution of two measures.

A typical example is the Cantor measure where $N = 2$, $M = 0$, $p_1 = p_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $S_1 x = \rho x$ and $S_2 x = \rho x + (1 - \rho)$. The Fourier transform of the Cantor measure is

$$\hat{\mu}(x) = e^{ix/2} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \cos((1 - \rho)\rho^{k-1}x/2).$$

The graph of $F(x) = \hat{\mu}(x)/e^{ix/2}$ with $\rho = \frac{1}{3}$ is shown for $0 \leq x \leq 300$ in Fig. 1.

This measure is also called convolved Bernoulli measure. It was conjectured that μ ought to be absolutely continuous for $\rho > \frac{1}{2}$. However, Erdős [2] in 1939 showed that if ρ^{-1} is a PV-number and $\rho \neq \frac{1}{2}$ (an algebraic integer $\alpha > 1$ is called a PV-number if all its conjugate roots have modulus strictly less than 1), then the Fourier transform $\hat{\mu}(x)$ does not tend to zero at infinity and thus μ is purely singular. It can be plainly seen, in Fig. 1, that $\hat{\mu}(x)$ exhibits a chaotic local behavior. So it is better to study the average asymptotic rate of $\hat{\mu}(x)$ which was studied extensively by Strichartz [13–15], Lau [9], Lau and Wang [10] and Fan and Lau [3]. Strichartz [13] showed that

$$\int_{|x| \leq R} |\hat{\mu}(x)|^2 dx = O(R^{n-\beta}) \tag{1.4}$$

under certain addition hypotheses, where β satisfies $\rho^\beta = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j^2$. In Section 2 of this paper, we will show that

$$\int_{|x| \leq R} \left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^\alpha \hat{\mu}(x) \right|^2 dx = O(R^{n-\beta}) \tag{1.5}$$

for any order derivation of $\hat{\mu}(x)$ under the same hypotheses of Strichartz.

For the maximal operator \mathcal{M} when σ is the self-similar measure of (1.3), following the result of pointwise asymptotic behavior for the nonlinear self-similar measure, we get the L^p bounded result for \mathcal{M} in (1.3) when $M > 0$. For the linear self-similar measure of (1.2), in some cases of Bernoulli convolution measure, we also get the L^p bounded result for \mathcal{M} .

2. The estimates of derivative of Fourier transforms

Let μ be a self-similar measure on \mathbb{R}^n , the Fourier transform of $\hat{\mu}(x)$ is defined as

$$\hat{\mu}(x) = \int e^{ix \cdot y} d\mu(y).$$

If μ is the linear self-similar measure of (1.2), then

$$\hat{\mu}(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j e^{ib_j x} \hat{\mu}(\rho_j R_j^* x). \tag{2.1}$$

For any $K \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $\mathcal{J}_K = \{(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_K) : j_\ell = 1, 2, \dots, N \text{ for } \ell = 1, 2, \dots, K\}$. Given $J \in \mathcal{J}_K$ we write $S_J = S_{j_1} \circ S_{j_2} \circ \dots \circ S_{j_K}$. Then S_J is also a contractive similarity and has the form

$$S_J x = \rho_J R_J x + b_J,$$

where $\rho_J = \rho_{j_1} \rho_{j_2} \dots \rho_{j_K}$, $R_J = R_{j_1} R_{j_2} \dots R_{j_K}$ and

$$b_J = b_{j_1} + \rho_{j_1} R_{j_1} b_{j_2} + \dots + \rho_{j_1} \dots \rho_{j_{K-1}} R_{j_1} \dots R_{j_{K-1}} b_{j_K}. \tag{2.2}$$

Similarly, we define $p_J = \prod_{\ell=1}^K p_{j_\ell}$. By iterating (2.1),

$$\hat{\mu}(x) = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J e^{ib_J x} \hat{\mu}(\rho_J R_J^* x). \tag{2.3}$$

Since μ is a probability measure, it is obvious that $\hat{\mu} \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $|\hat{\mu}(x)| \leq 1$. We need the so called open set condition for the self-similar set introduced by Hutchinson [7]: there exists a bounded open set U such that $S_J U \subseteq U$ for each S_J and the sets $S_J U$ are disjoint. We will also impose the hypothesis that all ρ_j are equal, say to ρ , which we call the equi-contractive condition. Then assume the open set condition and the equi-contractive condition, Strichartz [13] showed that there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that

$$|b_J - b_{J'}| \geq c \cdot \rho^K \quad \text{for } J \neq J' \text{ in } \mathcal{J}_K. \tag{2.4}$$

Theorem 2.1. *Assume the open set condition, the equi-contraction, and that the rotations R_j are either all equal or generate a finite group. Then for any differential monomial $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^\alpha$ with $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$, we have*

$$\int_{|x| \leq R} \left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^\alpha \hat{\mu}(x) \right|^2 dx = O(R^{n-\beta}), \tag{2.5}$$

where β satisfies $\rho^\beta = \sum_{j=1}^N p_j^2$.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{T}_\alpha = \{(t_1, \dots, t_n) : 0 \leq t_\ell \leq \alpha_\ell \text{ for } \ell = 1, \dots, n\}$. Denote $\binom{\alpha}{t} = \binom{\alpha_1}{t_1} \dots \binom{\alpha_n}{t_n}$ for $t \in \mathcal{T}_\alpha$. From (2.3),

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^\alpha \hat{\mu}(x) = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_\alpha} \binom{\alpha}{t} \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J x} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho^K R_J^* x).$$

Let

$$W_{\alpha,t,K}(x) = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J x} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho^K R_J^* x). \tag{2.6}$$

Then there exists a constant $\theta_1(\alpha) > 0$ such that

$$\left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^\alpha \hat{\mu}(x) \right|^2 \leq \theta_1(\alpha) \max_{t \in \mathcal{T}_\alpha} |W_{\alpha,t,K}(x)|^2. \tag{2.7}$$

Assume first that all R_j are equal. Then in (2.6), all the factors $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho^K R_J^* x)$ are equal, so

$$|W_{\alpha,t,K}(x)| \leq \sup_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} \left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho^K R_J^* x) \right| \cdot \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J x} \right|. \tag{2.8}$$

Denote $R_J = (r_{J,uv})_{n \times n}$, then for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$, we have

$$R_J^* x \cdot y = \sum_{v=1}^n \left(\sum_{u=1}^n r_{J,uv} x_u \right) y_v = \sum_{u=1}^n \left(\sum_{v=1}^n r_{J,uv} y_v \right) x_u.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho_J R_J^* x) &= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \int e^{i(\rho^K R_J^* x) \cdot y} d\mu(y) \\ &= (i\rho^K)^{|\alpha|-|t|} \int \left(\sum_{v=1}^n r_{J,1v} y_v\right)^{\alpha_1-t_1} \cdots \left(\sum_{v=1}^n r_{J,nv} y_v\right)^{\alpha_n-t_n} e^{i(\rho^K R_J^* x) \cdot y} d\mu(y), \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

where $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n$, $|t| = t_1 + \cdots + t_n$. Since the support of μ is compact, there exists a constant $\tau > 0$ such that the support of μ is contained in $B(0, \tau)$, the ball of radius τ centered at 0. Since R_J is orthogonal, it follows that $|r_{J,uv}| \leq 1$ for all u, v . Thus, note that $\rho < 1$, there exists a constant $\theta_2(\tau, \alpha)$ such that

$$\left| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\alpha-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho_J R_J^* x) \right| \leq \int_{y \in B(0, \tau)} \left(\sum_{v=1}^n |y_v|\right)^{|\alpha|-|t|} d\mu(y) \leq \theta_2(\tau, \alpha). \tag{2.10}$$

Let h be a function satisfying the following properties:

- (i) $h \geq 0$,
- (ii) $h(x) \geq c_1$ in $|x| \leq c_2$,
- (iii) $\hat{h}(0) = 1$ and
- (iv) $\hat{h}(x) = 0$ in $|x| \geq c_3$.

Note that it is easy to construct such a function for any $c_3 > 0$ provided c_2 and $c_1 > 0$ are chosen appropriately.

Denote $b_J = (b_{J,1}, \dots, b_{J,n})$, from (2.2), $|b_{J,\ell}| \leq |b_J| = \frac{b^*}{1-\rho}$ for all $\ell = 1, \dots, n$, where $b^* = \max\{|b_j| : 1 \leq j \leq N\}$. Note that

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J \cdot x} = i^{t_1+\dots+t_n} b_{J,1}^{t_1} \cdots b_{J,n}^{t_n} e^{ib_J \cdot x}, \tag{2.11}$$

we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{|x| \leq c_2 \rho^{-K}} \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J \cdot x} \right|^2 dx \\ &= \int_{|x| \leq c_2 \rho^{-K}} \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} b_{J,1}^{t_1} \cdots b_{J,n}^{t_n} e^{ib_J \cdot x} \right|^2 dx \\ &\leq c_1^{-1} \int h(\rho^K x) \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} b_{J,1}^{t_1} \cdots b_{J,n}^{t_n} e^{ib_J \cdot x} \right|^2 dx \\ &= c_1^{-1} \rho^{-Kn} \int \rho^{Kn} h(\rho^K x) \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} b_{J,1}^{t_1} \cdots b_{J,n}^{t_n} e^{ib_J \cdot x} \right|^2 dx \\ &= c_1^{-1} \rho^{-Kn} \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \overline{p_{J'}} b_{J,1}^{t_1} \overline{b_{J',1}^{t_1}} \cdots b_{J,n}^{t_n} \overline{b_{J',n}^{t_n}} \hat{h}(\rho^{-K}(b_J - b_{J'})) \\ &= c_1^{-1} \rho^{-Kn} \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} |p_J|^2 |b_{J,1}^{t_1}|^2 \cdots |b_{J,n}^{t_n}|^2, \quad \text{by (2.4) and (iv) of } h \\ &\leq c_1^{-1} \theta_3 \rho^{-Kn} \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} |p_J|^2, \quad \text{where } \theta_3 = \left(\frac{b^*}{1-\rho}\right)^{2|t|} \\ &= c_1^{-1} \theta_3 \rho^{-Kn} \left(\sum_{j=1}^N p_j^2\right)^K \\ &= c_1^{-1} \theta_3 \rho^{K(\beta-n)} \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\int_{|x| \leq R} \left| \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}_K} p_J \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^t e^{ib_J \cdot x} \right|^2 dx = O(R^{n-\beta}).$$

Combining this with (2.7), (2.8) and (2.10), we obtain (2.5).

More generally, if the rotations R_j generate a finite group with say L elements, we can always write the sum in (2.1) as a sum of L sums in which the functions $\hat{\mu}(\rho_j R_j^* x)$ are the same. As a result, in (2.6), all the factors $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{z-t} \hat{\mu}(\rho^k R_j^* x)$ are equal. Thus we can prove the theorem by the same argument. \square

Remark 2.1. If $\alpha = (0, \dots, 0)$, Theorem 2.1 is the result of Strichartz [13].

Remark 2.2. β is a number between 0 and n . For the Cantor measure ($N = 2, M = 0, p_1 = p_2 = \frac{1}{2}, \rho_1 = \rho_2 = \frac{1}{3}, b_1 = 0, b_2 = \frac{2}{3}$), $\beta = \frac{\log 2}{\log 3}$.

3. Maximal operators of μ

Given a multiplier $m \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we define the operator T^* by $T^*f(x) = \sup_{t>0} |T_t f(x)|$, where $(T_t f)^\wedge(\xi) = \hat{f}(\xi)m(t\xi)$. The following theorem of Rubio de Francia [4] is the main result we use to prove our theorems.

Theorem A. Suppose that $m(\xi)$ is the Fourier transform of a compactly supported Borel measure σ , and

$$|m(\xi)| \leq C|\xi|^{-a}, \quad \text{with } a > \frac{1}{2}. \tag{3.1}$$

Then T^* is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p > p_a = (2a + 1)/2a$.

It is easy to see that in the case of Theorem A, $T^*f(x) = \sup_{t>0} |\int f(x - ty) d\sigma(y)|$. So T^* is the maximal operator (1.1) of σ we want to study. Thus, if we have the asymptotic behavior of the Fourier transform of self-similar measure μ , in ∞ , we can get the L^p boundedness of maximal operators of μ .

For nonlinear self-similar measures in (2.3), Glichenstein and Strichartz [5] got the results we need.

Theorem B. If μ is not degenerate (i.e., the support of μ is not in an affine hyperplane $\{x : x \cdot \omega = t\}$ for ω a unit vector), then

- (i) If $N = 0$, then $|\hat{\mu}(x)| \leq e^{-c|x|^\alpha}$, for large x for some positive constants c and α .
- (ii) If $M > 0, N > 0$ and there is a constant $\epsilon > 0$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^N p_j \rho_j^{-\epsilon} < 1$, then there exists a positive constant c such that $|\hat{\mu}(x)| \leq c|x|^{-\epsilon}$.

Now we can prove the L^p boundedness of maximal operators \mathcal{M} for such measure μ . Now

$$\mathcal{M}f(x) = \sup_{t>0} \left| \int f(x - ty) d\mu(y) \right|. \tag{3.2}$$

Theorem 3.1. Under the hypothesis of Theorem B, we have

- (i) In case (i) of Theorem B, the maximal operator in (3.2) is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p > 1$.
- (ii) In case (ii) of Theorem B and suppose that there exists a constant $\epsilon > \frac{1}{2}$ satisfying $\sum_{j=1}^N p_j \rho_j^{-\epsilon} < 1$, then the maximal operator (3.1) is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for $p \geq \frac{2\epsilon+1}{2\epsilon}$.

Proof. In case (i) of Theorem B, for any $a > 1$, $|\hat{\mu}(x)| \leq c|x|^{-a}$ holds for large x . So (3.1) is satisfied for any $a > 1$. Thus \mathcal{M} is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p > \frac{2a+1}{2a}$. Since $\frac{2a+1}{2a} \rightarrow 1$ when $a \rightarrow +\infty$, it follows that \mathcal{M} is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p > 1$.

In case (ii) of Theorem B, (3.1) is satisfied for $a = \epsilon$, thus \mathcal{M} is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p \geq \frac{2\epsilon+1}{2\epsilon}$.

For linear self-similar measure μ in (2.1), take $\mu = v_\lambda, N = 2, M = 0, p_1 = p_2 = \frac{1}{2}, S_1 x = \lambda x + 1$ and $S_2 x = \lambda x - 1$. we need a result of Peres et al. [11] for Bernoulli convolution. \square

Theorem C ([11], Proposition 6.1). Let $1 < a < b < \infty$. Fix $k \geq 2$ and define

$$r = \frac{1}{2}(b+1)^{-2}, \quad A = 1 + (b+1)^2.$$

Suppose that

$$B < \frac{-\log[\cos(\pi r)]}{\log b}.$$

Then

$$\dim\{\lambda \in [b^{-1}, a^{-1}] : \hat{v}_\lambda(u) \neq O(u^{-B/k})\} \leq \frac{\log[eA^3k]}{k \log a}.$$

To get a concrete numerical estimate, take $a = 2^{2^{-11}}$, $b = 2^{2^{-10}}$, $k = 34$, then $\frac{\log[eA^3k]}{k \log a} < 1$ and $\frac{-\log[\cos(\pi r)]}{k \log b} > 0.6$. Thus Theorem C implies

$$\dim\{\lambda \in [2^{2^{-10}}, 2^{2^{-11}}] : \hat{v}_\lambda(u) \neq O(u^{-0.6})\} < 1.$$

So the Lebesgue measure of λ in $[2^{2^{-10}}, 2^{2^{-11}}]$ such that $\hat{v}_\lambda(x) = O(x^{-0.6})$ is positive. By Theorem A, we have

Theorem 3.2. *The maximal operators \mathcal{M} of μ is bounded in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for all $p \geq \frac{2 \times 0.6 + 1}{2 \times 0.6} \approx 1.8$.*

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