Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa Classe di Scienze

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Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Classe di Scienze $4^e\,$ série, tome 28, nº 1 (1999), p. 31-40

http://www.numdam.org/item?id=ASNSP_1999_4_28_1_31_0

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Non Interpolation in Morrey-Campanato and Block Spaces

OSCAR BLASCO – ALBERTO RUIZ – LUIS VEGA

Abstract. We prove non interpolation results for the family of Morrey spaces. We introduce a scale of block spaces, which are preduals of Morrey spaces in some range. Negative interpolation results are also obtained in this case.

Mathematics Subject Classification (1991): 46A20 (primary), 46B70 (secondary).

1. - Introduction

The spaces $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$, for the range $\alpha \in (0, n/p]$ and $p \in [1, \infty]$, were introduced by Morrey in order to study regularity questions which appear in the Calculus of Variations, later Campanato extended the definition to the range $\alpha \in (-1, n/p]$.

 $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ is defined as the set of functions f locally in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and such that there exists a constant σ for which

(1.1)
$$\sup_{Q} r^{\alpha} \left(r^{-n} \int_{Q} |f(x) - \sigma|^{p} dx \right)^{1/p} < \infty,$$

where the sup is taken over all the cubes in \mathbb{R}^n and r denotes the side length. The norm $\|\cdot\|_{p,\alpha}$ is defined as the infimum of (1,1) when $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$.

In the range defined by Morrey, functions in this space have been used as weights, to substitute the Lebesgue spaces L^p by weighted- L^2 , in Sobolev-Poincaré inequalities, unique continuation, potentials in wave and Schrödinger equations and some other problems in PDE, see [CS], [ChR], [FP], [Sc], [T], [W]. There are still some interesting open problems, for example in unique continuation and in the restriction properties of the Fourier transform, see [K], [RV1], [RV2]. In this range we can, without loss of generality, take $\sigma = 0$, the

The first author is partially supported by the Spanish DGCYT Proyecto PB95-0261. The second is partially supported by DGCYT PB94-0192. The third author is partially supported by the Spanish DGCYT PB94-1365.

Pervenuto alla Redazione il 25 febbraio 1998.

endpoint case $p = \frac{n}{\alpha}$ is just L^p , being in the other case, $p < n/\alpha$, L^p strictly included in $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$.

When $\alpha < 0$ (Campanato's extended range) it has been proved that $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ is the space of $(-\alpha)$ -Hölder continuous functions, see [C] and [M]. When $\alpha = 0$ we have BMO.

In this work we reduce ourselves to the range $\alpha \in (0, n/p], p \in (1, \infty]$. Therefore (see, for instance [Ku]) we have $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ is the set of functions f locally in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and such that

(1.2)
$$||f||_{p,\alpha} = \sup_{O} r^{\alpha} \left(r^{-n} \int_{O} |f(x)|^{p} dx \right)^{1/p} < \infty,$$

where the sup is taken over all the cubes in \mathbb{R}^n and r denotes the side length. Our concerns are duality and interpolation properties of this two-parameters family of spaces. A few more historical comments are in order.

Interpolation properties of $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ were the objects of attention in several works during the 60's. Stampacchia [St], and Campananto and Murthy [CM] proved that if T is a linear operator bounded from L^{q_i} to $\mathcal{L}^{p_i,\alpha_i}$, i=1,2,with operator norm K_i , then T is bounded from $L^{q_{\theta}}$ to $\mathcal{L}^{p_{\theta},\alpha_{\theta}}$ with norm at most $CK_1^{1-\theta}K_2^{\theta}$, where $1/p_{\theta} = (1-\theta)/p_1 + \theta/p_2$, $1/q_{\theta} = (1-\theta)/q_1 + \theta/q_2$, $\alpha_{\theta} = (1-\theta)/\alpha_1 + \theta/\alpha_2$ and C only depends on θ , α_i , p_i and q_i . A similar property was proved by Peetre, see [P], for a extended family of spaces. Actually as J. Peetre points out — see [P, pg. 77], any interpolation theorem will do, in the sense that one can replace (L^{p_0}, L^{p_1}) by an abstract pair (A_0, A_1) , and L^p by an abstract interpolation space A constructed from (A_0, A_1) and still have an inequality as before. In particular this gives us that $\mathcal{L}^{p_{\theta},\alpha_{\theta}}$ contains the corresponding interpolated space. The main purpose of this paper is to prove that the inclusion in the other direction does not hold. In the range $\alpha \in (-1, n/p]$, this was proved by Stein and Zygmund [SteZ] by constructing a linear operator bounded from $(-\alpha)$ -Hölder continuous functions to $(-\alpha)$ -Hölder continuous functions and from L^2 to L^2 which is not bounded from BMO to BMO.

Recently two of the authors, see [RV3], obtained negative results on interpolation properties in the Morrey range. To be precise, the lack of convexity which characterises interpolation functors of exponent θ , see [BL, page 27], is proved. In that work they need the dimension n > 1.

In the present work we go further and give examples, in the one dimensional case, of operators which are bounded from $\mathcal{L}^{p_i,\alpha} \to L^{q_i}$, $i=1,2,0<\alpha \leq n/p$, $p\in(0,\infty)$ and are not bounded from the intermediate $\mathcal{L}^{p_\theta,\alpha}$ to L^{q_θ} .

We also give a description of the predual spaces of $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ in the context of "block spaces" (see [SOS] and [So] for this terminology in other situations). We say that a measurable function b is a (q,β) -block if it is supported in a cube Q of lengthside r in such a way that

$$\left(\frac{1}{|O|} \int_{O} |b(x)|^{q} dx\right)^{1/q} \leq \frac{1}{r^{\beta}}.$$

The question of the preduals of Morrey spaces has been already studied see [Z], and [A]. But in there the corresponding blocks have mean zero. Therefore we prove that this condition can be omitted and still have a description of the predual spaces. This question is of course related to the two possible definitions of Morrey spaces mentioned above.

In Section 2 we prove that the predual of $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$, when $0 < \alpha < n/p$ is the space

(1.4)
$$\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta} = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k b_k : \sum |\lambda_k| < \infty \text{ and } b_k \text{ is a } (q,\beta) - \text{block} \right\}$$

for $\beta = n - \alpha$ and 1/p + 1/q = 1.

Meanwhile the spaces defined by (1.2) reduce to $\{0\}$ when $\alpha > n/p$, the definition of $\mathcal{B}_{a,\beta}$ gives non trivial spaces in the corresponding range, beyond the preduality exponents, $\beta > n/q$. So it makes sense to study interpolation properties in this range; in Section 3 we also give a negative result in this context which is not covered by preduality and which is a complement to the questions posed in the 60's.

We would like to thank F. Cobos for enlightening conversations.

2. - Preduals

Let us start with some elementary properties of block spaces. Let us define

(2.1)
$$||f||_{\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}} = \inf \left\{ \sum |\lambda_k| \text{ such that } f = \sum \lambda_k b_k \right\}$$

where the infimum is taken over all possible decompositions of f into (q, β) blocks.

- (a) $\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta} \subset L^{n/\beta}$ if $n/\beta \leq q$. (b) $L^q \subset \mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}$ if $q \leq n/\beta$.
- (c) For any cube Q and $f \in L^q_{loc}$ we have

$$\|\chi_Q f\|_{\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}} \le |Q|^{\beta/n-1/q} \|\chi_Q f\|_q$$

PROOF. (a) follows from Hölder and Minkowsky inequalities and the condition $\sum |\lambda_k| < \infty$.

(b) Denote by $Q_k = \{x : |x_i| \le 2^k, i = 1, ..., n\}$. Assume first that $q < n/\beta$. Then

$$f = \sum_{1}^{\infty} |Q_k|^{\beta/n-1/q} ||f||_q b_k,$$

where $b_k = \frac{f(\chi_{Q_k} - \chi_{Q_{k-1}})}{\|Q_k\|^{\beta/n-1/q}\|f\|_q}$ is a (q, β) -block.

Assume now that $q = n/\beta$ and $f \in L^q$. Since $f \chi_{Q_k}$ is a Cauchy sequence in L^q then we can find n_k such that $||f \chi_{Q_{n_{k+1}}} - f \chi_{Q_{n_k}}||_q < 2^{-k}$. Now write

$$f = f \chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{n_1}} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f \chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{n_{k+1}}} - f \chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{n_k}}.$$

This clearly shows that $f \in \mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}$ and $||f||_{\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}} \le 2||f||_q$.

(c) Just observe that

$$(f\chi_{O})(x) = |Q|^{\beta/n - 1/q} ||\chi_{O} f||_{a} b$$

with b a (q, β) -block.

REMARKS. 1. $\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}=L^q$ for $\beta=n/q$. Then its dual is $L^p=\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ for $\alpha=n/p$.

2. As we observe in the introduction $\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}$ is a meaningful space in the case (b) of Lemma 1 and it contains L^q .

THEOREM 1. Let $1 and <math>\alpha \in (0, n/p)$, then if we take β and q such that $\alpha + \beta = n$ and 1/p + 1/q = 1 we have

$$(\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta})^* = \mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$$
.

PROOF. Assume $f \in \mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$ and take b a (q,β) -block supported in a cube Q of side r, then

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} fb \right| \le \left(\int_{Q} |f|^p \right)^{1/p} \left(\int_{Q} |b|^q \right)^{1/q}$$

$$= r^{\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_{Q} |f|^p \right)^{1/p} r^{\beta} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_{Q} |b|^q \right)^{1/q} \le ||f||_{p,\alpha}.$$

Take now $g = \sum \lambda_k b_k$, then

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} fg \right| \leq \sum |\lambda_k| \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} fb_k \right| \leq \sum |\lambda_k| \|f\|_{p,\alpha} \leq \|g\|_{\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}} \|f\|_{p,\alpha}.$$

This proves that $\mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha} \subset (\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta})^*$.

To prove the other inclusion take $\Phi \in (\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta})^*$ and a cube Q, from (c) of Lemma 1 we have that Φ restricted to the subset $L^q(Q)$ is in $L^q(Q)^*$, and hence there exists a $f_Q \in L^q(Q)$ such that

$$\int f_Q g = \Phi(g) \text{ for any } g \in L^q(Q).$$

Write $\mathbb{R}^n = \bigcup_{1}^{\infty} Q_k$, Q_k increasing, define $f(x) = f_{Q_k}(x)$ if $x \in Q_k$, which makes sense since $\int_E f_{Q_k} = \int_E f_{Q_{k+1}}$ for any Borel subset of Q_k and hence $f_{Q_k}(x) = f_{Q_{k+1}}(x)$ a.e. $x \in Q_k$.

Only remains to prove that $f \in \mathcal{L}^{p,\alpha}$. Take a cube Q and j such that $Q \subset Q_j$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |Q|^{\alpha/n} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_{Q} |f|^{p} \right)^{1/p} &= |Q|^{\alpha/n - 1/p} \sup_{\|h\|_{q} = 1} \int_{Q} fh \, dx \\ &\leq \sup_{\|h\|_{q} = 1} \int_{Q_{j}} f_{Q_{j}} \left(h \chi_{Q} |Q|^{\alpha/n - 1/p} \right) dx \\ &\leq \|\Phi\| \, \|h \chi_{Q} |Q|^{\alpha/n - 1/p} \|_{\mathcal{B}_{a,\beta}} \leq \|\Phi\| \, , \end{aligned}$$

since $h\chi_O|Q|^{\alpha/n-1/p} = h\chi_O|Q|^{\beta/n-1/q}$ is a (q, β) -block.

3. - Interpolation

In [RV3] it was proved the lack of logarithmic convexity of the operator norm of an operator bounded from $\mathcal{L}^{p_i,\alpha}$ to L^1 , i=1,2 with $1 \le p_2 \le \frac{n-1}{2} \le p_1 < \infty$, $0 < \alpha < n$. This operator requires the dimension > 1. We start by exhibiting an example in dimension 1 of non-boundedness in an intermediate space. Similar examples can be constructed in higher dimension.

THEOREM 2. Take p_1 , p_2 , and p_3 such that $1 < p_2 < p_3 < p_1 \le 1$, $\alpha = \frac{1}{p_1}$. Then there exists $q_1, q_2 \in (1, \infty)$ and a linear operator T such that, we have

$$(3.1) T: \mathcal{L}^{p_i,\alpha} \to L^{q_i}, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

and

$$(3.2) T: \mathcal{L}^{p_3,\alpha} \not\to L^{q_3},$$

where
$$\frac{1}{p_3} = \frac{1-\theta}{p_1} + \frac{\theta}{p_2}$$
 and $\frac{1}{q_3} = \frac{1-\theta}{q_1} + \frac{\theta}{q_2}$.

LEMMA 2. Let $0 < p_3$, α , β be positive numbers such that

$$(3.3) \max\{p_3, 1\} \le \frac{\beta}{(\beta + 1)\alpha}$$

and let N_0 such that $(\beta + 1) < \frac{N_0}{\log N_0}$. Define

$$I_i^N = [2^N + jN^{\beta}, 2^N + jN^{\beta} + 1]$$

for $N > N_0$, $N \in \mathbb{N}$, and j = 0, 1, ..., N - 1. Then

$$\left\| \sum_{N > N_0} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \chi_{I_j^N} \right\|_{p_{3}, \alpha} \le C,$$

where C is a universal constant.

PROOF. By inspection one can see that the biggest value of

$$|I|^{\alpha} (\frac{1}{|I|} |I \cap (\cup I_j^N)|)^{\frac{1}{p_3}}$$

is achieved when the inf I is at a point 2^N and $N^{\beta+1} \approx |I|$.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Choose β and q_1 such that

$$(3.4) p_3 < \frac{\beta}{\alpha(\beta+1)} < p_1,$$

(3.5)
$$\frac{2}{q_1} = \min \left\{ \frac{2}{p_2} + \alpha (1+\beta) - \frac{\beta}{p_1}, 2 \right\},\,$$

and $q_2 = p_2$.

Hence $q_1 < q_2 = p_2$. Define $E_N = \bigcup_{j=0}^{N-1} I_j^N$ with I_j^N as in Lemma 2 and

(3.6)
$$Tf(x) = \sum_{N > N_0} \lambda_N \chi_{E_N}(x) f(x),$$

with $\lambda_N = \frac{1}{N^{\gamma}}$, γ such that

(3.7)
$$\frac{2}{p_2} < \gamma < \frac{2}{q_3} = \frac{2(1-\theta)}{q_1} + \frac{2\theta}{q_2}.$$

Notice that from (3.5) $\frac{1}{q_3} > \frac{1}{p_2}$. Hence we trivially have

$$||Tf||_{q_{1}} = \left(\sum_{N} \lambda_{N}^{q_{1}} \int_{E_{N}} |f|^{q_{1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{q_{1}}}$$

$$\leq \left(\sum_{N} \lambda_{N}^{q_{1}} N^{q_{1}(\frac{1}{q_{1}} - \frac{1}{p_{1}})} ||f||_{L^{p_{1}}(E_{N})}^{q_{1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{q_{1}}}$$

$$\leq \left(\sum_{N} \lambda_{N}^{q_{1}} N^{1 - q_{1}(\alpha(1 + \beta) - \frac{\beta}{p_{1}})}\right)^{\frac{1}{q_{1}}} ||f||_{p_{1}, \alpha},$$

since

$$||f||_{L^{p_1}(E_N)} \le N^{\frac{(\beta+1)}{p_1} - \alpha(\beta+1)} ||f||_{p_1,\alpha}.$$

Then $||Tf||_{q_1} \le C||f||_{p_1,\alpha}$, follows from (3.5) and (3.7).

We have from (3.7) that $1 - \gamma q_2 < -1$, and for $q_2 = p_2$:

$$\begin{split} \|Tf\|_{q_2} &\leq \left(\sum_N \lambda_N^{q_2} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \|f\|_{L^{p_2}(I_j^N)}^{p_2}\right)^{1/p_2} \\ &\leq \left(\sum_N \lambda_N^{q_2} N\right)^{\frac{1}{q_2}} \|f\|_{p_2,\alpha} \leq C \|f\|_{p_2,\alpha} \,. \end{split}$$

On the other hand we know from Lemma 2 that $f = \sum_{N} \chi_{E_N} \in \mathcal{L}^{p_3,\alpha}$ and from (3.7) $1 - \gamma q_3 > -1$, hence

$$||Tf||_{q_3} = \left(\sum_N \lambda_N^{q_3} N\right)^{\frac{1}{q_3}} = \left(\sum_N N^{1-\gamma q_3}\right)^{\frac{1}{q_3}} = \infty.$$

The proof is over.

The next theorem states that interpolation for the blocks spaces $\mathcal{B}_{q,\beta}$ does not hold between points at both sides of the line $q=\frac{1}{\beta}$. In fact we give an operator bounded $L^{p_i}\to\mathcal{B}_{q_i,\beta}$, i=1,2 which is not bounded from $L^{p_\theta}\to\mathcal{B}_{q_\theta,\beta}$, and such that $\mathcal{B}_{q_2,\beta}$ is on the predual range and $\mathcal{B}_{q_1,\beta}$ is out of it.

THEOREM 3. Let $1 \le q_1 < q_2 \le 2$. There exist $\beta \in (\frac{1}{q_2}, \frac{1}{q_1}), \theta \in (0, 1), p_1, p_2$ and a linear operator T such that we have

$$(3.9) T: L^{p_1} \to \mathcal{B}_{q_1,\beta}$$

$$(3.10) T: L^{p_2} \to \mathcal{B}_{q_2,\beta}$$

and

$$(3.11) T: L^{p_{\theta}} \nrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{q_{\theta},\beta}$$

where
$$\frac{1}{p_{\theta}} = \frac{1-\theta}{p_1} + \frac{\theta}{p_2}$$
 and $\frac{1}{q_{\theta}} = \frac{1-\theta}{q_1} + \frac{\theta}{q_2}$.

In the proof of Theorem 3 the following lemma will be used:

LEMMA 3. Let $\{E_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}$ and let $B_k = \operatorname{co}(E_k)$ denotes its convex hull, let $q_1 < p_1, \beta > 0$ and $f \in L^{p_1}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\|f\|_{p_1} = 1$. If $\{B_k\}$ are disjoint, and

(3.12)
$$\lambda_k |E_k|^{\frac{1}{q_1} - \frac{1}{p_1}} |B_k|^{\beta - \frac{1}{q_1}} \in l^1,$$

then
$$\sum \lambda_k f \chi_{E_k} \in \mathcal{B}_{q_1,\beta}$$
.

PROOF. Just observe that from Hölder $|E_k|^{\frac{1}{p_1}-\frac{1}{q_1}}|B_k|^{\frac{1}{q_1}-\beta}f\chi_{E_k}$ is a (q_1,β) -block.

PROOF OF THEOREM 3. Observe that $\frac{1}{q_2'} < \frac{1}{q_1}$. Take $p_2 = q_2$ and $p_2 < p_1$ such that

$$\frac{1}{q_2'} < \frac{1}{q_1} - \frac{1}{p_1}.$$

Now choose θ such that

(3.14)
$$\frac{1}{q_2'} < (1 - \theta) \left(\frac{1}{q_1} - \frac{1}{p_1} \right),$$

and now β such that

$$(3.15) \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{q_{\theta}} < \beta < \frac{1}{q_1}$$

where $\frac{1}{q_{\theta}} = \frac{1-\theta}{q_1} + \frac{\theta}{q_2}$. Consider now $E_k = [2^k, 2^k + 1) \cup [2^{k+1}, 1, 2^{k+1})$ and define

$$T(f) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-\gamma} \chi_{E_k}\right) f$$

for γ chosen such that

(3.16)
$$\frac{1}{p_2'} = \frac{1}{q_2'} < \gamma < (1 - \theta) \left(\frac{1}{q_1} - \frac{1}{p_1} \right).$$

Since $\beta < \frac{1}{q_1}$, $|E_k| = 2$ and $|B_k| = 2^k$ then Lemma 3 implies (3.9). Now from condition (3.15) we have that $\frac{1}{q_2} < \beta$ what allows us to use Theorem 1 and write (remember that $q_2 = p_2$) for $\alpha = 1 - \beta$:

$$\begin{split} \left\| \sum k^{-\gamma} f \chi_{E_{k}} \right\|_{\mathcal{B}_{q_{2}},\beta} &= \sup_{\|g\|_{q'_{2},\alpha} \le 1} \int \left(\sum k^{-\gamma} f \chi_{E_{k}} \right) g \\ &= \sup_{\|g\|_{p'_{2},\alpha} \le 1} \int \left(\sum k^{-\gamma} g \chi_{E_{k}} \right) f \\ &\le \|f\|_{p_{2}} \sup_{\|g\|_{p'_{2},\alpha} \le 1} \left\| \sum k^{-\gamma} g \chi_{E_{k}} \right\|_{p'_{2}} \\ &= \|f\|_{p_{2}} \sup_{\|g\|_{p'_{2},\alpha} \le 1} \left(\sum k^{-\gamma p'_{2}} \int_{E_{k}} |g|^{p'_{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p'_{2}}} \\ &\le \|f\|_{p_{2}} 2^{\frac{1}{p'_{2}}} \left(\sum k^{-\gamma p'_{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p'_{2}}} . \end{split}$$

The last inequality follows from the fact that $\int_{E_k} |g|^{p_2'} \le 2\|g\|_{p_2',\alpha}^{p_2'}$. The above

series converges from (3.16). This proves (3.10). Finally, since $\frac{1}{q_{\theta}} < \beta$, then (3.11) is equivalent to see that $T^* = T$ is not bounded from $\mathcal{L}^{q'_{\theta}, 1-\beta}$ to $L^{p'_{\theta}}$.

Take now $A_N = \bigcup_{k=1}^N E_k$ and $f_N = |A_N|^{-\frac{1}{q'_{\theta}}} \chi_{A_N}$. It is elementary to see that $||f_N||_{q'_{\theta}, 1-\beta} \le 1$.

On the other hand

$$||T(f_N)||_{p'_{\theta}} = 2^{\frac{1}{p'_{\theta}}} (2N)^{-\frac{1}{q'_{\theta}}} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{N} k^{-\gamma p'_{\theta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p'_{\theta}}}.$$

Note that

(3.17)
$$\frac{1}{q_{\theta}} - \frac{1}{p_{\theta}} = (1 - \theta) \left(\frac{1}{q_1} - \frac{1}{p_1} \right)$$

and then (3.16) gives that $\gamma p'_{\theta} < 1$ what allows to write

(3.18)
$$\sum_{k=1}^{N} k^{-\gamma p'_{\theta}} \ge C N^{-\gamma p'_{\theta}+1}.$$

Using (3.17) and (3.18) we get that

$$||T(f_N)||_{p_A'} \ge CN^{-\gamma+(1-\theta)(\frac{1}{q_1}-\frac{1}{p_1})}.$$

Now (3.16) gives that $\sup_N \|T(f_N)\|_{p_A'} = \infty$ and the proof is completed.

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