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FACTORIZATION AND EXTRAPOLATION OF WEIGHTS

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1. Introduction. The functions $w(x) \geqslant 0$ for which the Hardy-Littlewood maximal operator M is bounded in $L^p(w) = L^p(\mathbf{R}^n, w(x)dx)$, $1 < p < \infty$, are characterized by Muckenhoupt's A_p condition (see [5]). The description of all A_p weights in terms of A_1 weights (where $w \in A_1$ means $Mw(x) \leqslant Cw(x)$ a.e.) is given by the factorization theorem of P. W. Jones [7]

$$w \in A_p \text{ iff } w = w_0 w_1^{1-p} \text{ for some } w_0, w_1 \in A_1. \tag{1}$$

The long and difficult proof of (1) depends heavily on the structure of cubes in $\mathbf{R}^n$ and on the very special properties of A_p weights (in particular: "$w \in A_p$ implies $w^s \in A_p$ for some $s > 1$"). We shall present here a different approach to (1) which is shorter and can be applied to more general weight classes. The ideas involved prove also some extrapolation theorems for weighted norm inequalities.

2. Statement of results. Let $(M_i)_{i \in I}$ be a family of positive operators in some measure space (X, dx) such that the maximal operator

$$Mf(x) = \sup_i |M_i f(x)|$$

is bounded in $L^p(dx)$ for all $p > 1$. If $1 < p < \infty$, we say that $w \in W_p$ when

$$\int Mf(x)^p w(x)dx \leqslant C_p(x) \int |f(x)|^p w(x)dx \qquad (f \in L^p(w))$$

while $w \in W_1$ means $Mw(x) \leqslant Cw(x)$ a.e. We make the following basic assumption:

$$w \in W_p \text{ iff } w^{-p'/p} \in W_{p'} \qquad (1 < p < \infty). \tag{2}$$

THEOREM 1. *If $w \in W_p$, $1 < p < \infty$, there exists $w_0, w_1 \in W_1$ such that $w(x) = w_0(x)w_1(x)^{1-p}$.*

In particular, the theorem of P. Jones holds for the weights associated to the strong maximal function, Bergman projections [4, 3], martingales [6, 10] and ergodic theory [2].

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