

**COMMUTATORS OF FRACTIONAL INTEGRAL OPERATOR
ASSOCIATED TO A NONDOUBLING MEASURES
ON METRIC SPACES**

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Abstract. The main purpose of this paper is to prove the boundedness of commutators of fractional integral operators associated to a measure on metric space satisfying just a mild growth condition.

1. INTRODUCTION

In classical harmonic analysis, a critical supposition is the Borel measure μ on metric (quasi-metric) space satisfying the so-called "doubling condition", which means that there exists a positive constant C , such that, for every ball $B(x, r)$ of center x and radius r ,

$$\mu(B(x, 2r)) \leq C\mu(B(x, r)). \quad (1.1)$$

The commutators in these kinds of space have been studied by many authors for a long time. A well known result which was discovered by Coifman, Rochberg and Weiss ([1, 7, 15]) is that the commutators $[b, T]$ of singular integral operators are bounded on some $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($1 < p < \infty$) if and only if $b \in BMO$, where $[b, T]$ is defined by

$$[b, T]f(x) = b(x)Tf(x) - T(bf)(x).$$

Let I_α be the standard fractional integral, that is,

$$I_\alpha f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} dy$$

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The result in [12] states that $[b, I_\alpha] : L^p \rightarrow L^q$ is bounded, $1 < p < n/\alpha$, $1/q = 1/p - \alpha/n$ when $b \in BMO$. And M. Paluszyński [8] proved that the commutators $[b, I_\alpha]$ is a bounded operator from $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($1 < p < \infty$) to $L^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ when $b \in Lip_\beta$, here $1/p - 1/r = (\alpha + \beta)/n$, $0 < \beta < 1$ and $[b, I_\alpha]f(x) = b(x)I_\alpha f(x) - I_\alpha(bf)(x)$.

In recent years, many authors begin to develop the complete theory of Calderón-Zygmund operators and commutators in a separable metric space, on which the measure is nondoubling measure. A few articles pertaining to this line of research are [2, 4-6, 9-11, 13,14], and so on. In 2004, J.García and A. Eduardo investigated the behavior of the fractional integral I_α associated to an n -dimensional measure μ on a metric space with not assuming that the metric space is separable, and the other related operators K_α in [3]. Motivated by their works, we want to obtain the boundedness of commutators of I_α and K_α in these metric spaces.

2. THE BOUNDEDNESS OF THE FRACTIONAL INTEGRAL I_α

In this paper, (X, d, μ) will always be a metric measure space, where d is a distance on X and μ is a Borel measure on X , such that, for every ball

$$B(x, r) = \{y \in X : d(x, y) < r\}, x \in X, r > 0,$$

we have

$$\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^n, \quad (2.1)$$

where n is some fixed positive real number and C is independent of x and r . Sometimes we shall refer to condition (2.1) by saying that the measure μ is n -dimensional. kB will denote the ball having the same center as B and radius k times that of B .

Before we give the results in our paper, we firstly state two lemmas which will be used all throughout the paper.

Lemma 2.1. ([3]). *For every $\gamma > 0$,*

$$\int_{B(x,r)} \frac{1}{d(x,y)^{n-\gamma}} d\mu(y) \leq Cr^\gamma. \quad (2.2)$$

Lemma 2.2. ([3]). *For every $\gamma > 0$,*

$$\int_{X \setminus B(x,r)} \frac{1}{d(x,y)^{n+\gamma}} d\mu(y) \leq Cr^{-\gamma}. \quad (2.3)$$

In order to discuss the boundedness of commutator of fractional integral, we recall two definitions now.

Definition 2.1. Let $0 < \alpha < n$. The fractional integral I_α associated to the measure μ will be defined, for appropriate functions f on X as

$$I_\alpha f(x) = \int_X \frac{f(y)}{d(x, y)^{n-\alpha}} d\mu(y). \quad (2.4)$$

Definition 2.2. Given $0 < \beta < 1$. We shall say that the function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfies a Lipschitz condition of order β provided with

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C d(x, y)^\beta \quad \forall x, y \in X \quad (2.5)$$

and the infimum of constants C in (2.5) will be denoted by $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)}$.

It is easy to see that the linear space of all Lipschitz functions of order β , modulo constants, becomes, with the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)}$, a Banach space, which is denoted by $\text{Lip}(\beta)$.

Theorem 2.1. Let $0 < \beta < 1$ and $b \in \text{Lip}(\beta)$. If $0 < \alpha + \beta < n$, $1 \leq p < \frac{n}{\alpha + \beta}$ and $\frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{\alpha + \beta}{n}$, then $[b, I_\alpha]$ is a bounded operator from $L^p(\mu)$ into Lorentz space $L^{q, \infty}(\mu)$, that is,

$$\mu(\{x \in X : |[b, I_\alpha]f(x)| > \lambda\}) \leq \left(\frac{C \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)}}{\lambda} \right)^q. \quad (2.6)$$

Proof. By the definition of commutator,

$$\begin{aligned} |[b, I_\alpha]f(x)| &= |b(x)I_\alpha f(x) - I_\alpha(bf)(x)| \\ &\leq \int_X \frac{|b(x) - b(y)||f(y)|}{d(x, y)^{n-\alpha}} d\mu(y) \\ &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \int_X \frac{|f(y)|}{d(x, y)^{n-\alpha-\beta}} d\mu(y), \end{aligned}$$

since $b \in \text{Lip}(\beta)$. Using the estimate in the proof of Theorem 3.2 in [3], we can easily prove Theorem 2.1. \blacksquare

Applying Marcinkiewicz's interpolation theorem with induices, we have following result.

Corollary 2.1 For $0 < \beta < 1$ and $b \in \text{Lip}(\beta)$, $1 < p < \frac{n}{\alpha + \beta}$ and $\frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{\alpha + \beta}{n}$, we have

$$\|[b, I_\alpha]f\|_{L^q(\mu)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)}. \quad (2.7)$$

3. THE BOUNDEDNESS OF THE FRACTIONAL INTEGRAL OPERATOR K_α

In this section, we will concentrate on the behave of fractional integral operator.

Definition 3.1. Let $0 < \alpha < n$ and $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$. A function $k_\alpha : X \times X \rightarrow C$ is said to be a fractional kernel of order α and regularity ε if it satisfies the following two conditions:

$$|k_\alpha(x, y)| \leq \frac{C}{d(x, y)^{n-\alpha}}, \quad \text{for all } x \neq y \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$|k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x', y)| \leq C \frac{d(x, x')^\varepsilon}{d(x, y)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}}, \quad \text{for } d(x, y) \geq 2d(x, x'). \quad (3.2)$$

The corresponding operator K_α , which is called a "fractional integral operator", is given by

$$K_\alpha(f)(x) = \int_X k_\alpha(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y). \quad (3.3)$$

From (3.1), we know that $K_\alpha(f)$ is well defined for $f \in L^p(\mu)$ and $1 \leq p < n/\alpha$. And (2.6), (2.7) are also hold on in this case.

Definition 3.2. Let k_α be a fractional kernel of order α and regularity ε . For $f \in L^p(\mu)$, We define

$$\tilde{K}_\alpha(f)(x) = \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_0, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y), \quad (3.4)$$

where x_0 is some fixed point of X .

Of course the function just defined depends on the point x_0 . But the difference between any two functions obtained in (3.4) for different choice of x_0 is just a constant. In fact, let $\tilde{K}_\alpha^{x_0}(f)(x) = \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_0, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y)$ and

$$\tilde{K}_\alpha^{x_1}(f)(x) = \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_1, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y). \quad \text{We know}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{K}_\alpha^{x_1}(f)(x) - \tilde{K}_\alpha^{x_0}(f)(x) \\ &= \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_1, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y) - \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_0, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &= \int_X \{k_\alpha(x_0, y) - k_\alpha(x_1, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y). \end{aligned}$$

and this is independent on x .

Making use of the above fact, we can discuss the boundedness of commutators of $\tilde{K}_\alpha(f)(x)$.

Theorem 3.1. *Let k_α be a fractional kernel with regularity ε and $b \in \text{Lip}(\beta)$, $0 < \beta < 1$. If $1 < \frac{n}{\alpha + \beta} < p < \infty$ and $\alpha + \beta - \frac{n}{p} < \varepsilon$, then $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]$ maps $L^p(\mu)$ boundedly into $\text{Lip}(\alpha + \beta - \frac{n}{p})$.*

Proof. Suppose $p < \infty$. Assume $x \neq y$. Let B be the ball with center x and radius $r = d(x, y)$. Since the difference between any two functioned defined in (3.4) for different elections of x_0 is just a constant, we can choose $x_0 \in 2B$. Write

$$\begin{aligned} [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(x) &= b(x)\tilde{K}_\alpha(f)(x) - \tilde{K}_\alpha(bf)(x) \\ &= b(x) \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_0, y)\} f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &\quad - \int_X \{k_\alpha(x, y) - k_\alpha(x_0, y)\} b(y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &= \int_X k_\alpha(x, y) [b(x) - b(y)] f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &\quad - \int_X k_\alpha(x_0, y) [b(x_0) - b(y)] f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &\quad + [b(x_0) - b(x)] \int_X k_\alpha(x_0, y) f(y) d\mu(y). \end{aligned}$$

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(x) - [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(y)| &= \left| \int_X (b(x) - b(z)) k_\alpha(x, z) f(z) d\mu(z) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_X (b(y) - b(z)) k_\alpha(y, z) f(z) d\mu(z) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_X (b(y) - b(x)) k_\alpha(x_0, z) f(z) d\mu(z) \right| \\ &\leq \int_{2B(x,r)} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z) f(z)| d\mu(z) \\ &\quad + \int_{2B(x,r)} |b(y) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(y, z) f(z)| d\mu(z) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \int_{2B(x,r)} |b(y) - b(x)| |k_\alpha(x_0, z) f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& + \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& + \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} |b(y) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x_0, z) - k_\alpha(y, z)| |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& =: \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III} + \text{IV} + \text{V}.
\end{aligned}$$

We shall estimate each of these five terms separately.

For the first term, using the condition (3.1), Lemma 2.1 and Hölder inequality, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{I} & \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \int_{2B(x,r)} \frac{d(x, z)^\beta}{d(x, z)^{n-\alpha}} |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} \left(\int_{2B(x,r)} \frac{d\mu(z)}{d(x, z)^{(n-\alpha-\beta)p'}} \right)^{1/p'} \\
& \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} (2r)^{\alpha+\beta-\frac{n}{p}},
\end{aligned}$$

here $(n - \alpha - \beta)p' = n - p'(\alpha + \beta - \frac{n}{p})$ and $\alpha + \beta - \frac{n}{p} > 0$.

The second term and the third term are estimated in a similar way after noticing that $2B \subset B(y, 3r)$ and $2B \subset B(x_0, 4r)$.

Now, we turn to the last two parts. By the regularity condition of fractional kernel (3.2) and Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{IV} & \leq \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} d(x, z)^\beta \frac{d(x, x_0)^\varepsilon}{d(x, z)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}} |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
& \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} d(x, y)^\varepsilon \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} \left(\int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} \frac{d\mu(z)}{d(x, z)^{(n-\alpha-\beta+\varepsilon)p'}} \right)^{1/p'} \\
& \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta-\frac{n}{p}},
\end{aligned}$$

here $(n - \alpha - \beta + \varepsilon)p' = n + p'(\frac{n}{p} + \varepsilon - \alpha - \beta)$ and $\frac{n}{p} + \varepsilon - \alpha - \beta > 0$.

For V, since $r = d(x, y)$, we have $B(y, r) \subset B(x, 2r) \subset B(y, 3r)$, and $X \setminus B(y, r) \supset X \setminus 2B(x, r)$. Using the size condition (3.1) and Lemma 2.2, similar to IV, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
V &\leq \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} |b(y) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x_0, z) - k_\alpha(y, z)| |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \int_{X \setminus 2B(x,r)} d(y, z)^\beta \frac{d(y, x_0)^\varepsilon}{d(y, z)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}} |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} d(y, x_0)^\varepsilon \int_{X \setminus B(y,r)} \frac{d(y, z)^\beta}{d(y, z)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}} |f(z)| d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} d(x, y)^\varepsilon \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} \left(\int_{X \setminus B(y,r)} \frac{d\mu(z)}{d(x, z)^{(n-\alpha-\beta+\varepsilon)p'}} \right)^{1/p'} \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta-\frac{n}{p}},
\end{aligned}$$

Here $d(y, x_0) \leq d(x, y) + d(x, x_0) \leq 3d(x, y)$.

Combining with all the estimates above, we obtain that

$$|[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(x) - [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(y)| \leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{L^p(\mu)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta-\frac{n}{p}}.$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 3.1. \blacksquare

Furthermore, we can consider the boundedness of commutator in Lipschitz spaces.

Theorem 3.2 *Let k_α be a fractional kernel with regularity ε , $\alpha, \gamma > 0$ and $0 < \beta < 1$ such that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma < \varepsilon$. Suppose that $b \in \text{Lip}(\beta)$. Then $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]$ is bounded mapping from $\text{Lip}(\gamma)$ to $\text{Lip}(\alpha + \beta + \gamma)$ if and only if $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](1) = C$.*

Proof. Noticing that the continuity of the operator $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]$ implies that $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](1) = C$, the necessity of Theorem 3.2 is obvious.

To prove the sufficiency, let $x \neq y$, $r = d(x, y)$, $B = B(x, r)$ and choose $x_0 \in 2B$. We want to estimate $|[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](f)(x) - [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](f)(y)|$. Observe that $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](1) = C$, therefore, $[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](1)(x) - [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha](1)(y) = 0$, that is,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_X (b(x) - b(z)) k_\alpha(x, z) d\mu(z) - \int_X (b(y) - b(z)) k_\alpha(y, z) d\mu(z) \\
&\quad + \int_X (b(y) - b(x)) k_\alpha(x_0, z) d\mu(z) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

As the proof in Theorem 3.1, we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
&|[b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(x) - [b, \tilde{K}_\alpha]f(y)| \\
&= \left| \int_X (b(x) - b(z)) k_\alpha(x, z) f(z) d\mu(z) - \int_X (b(y) - b(z)) k_\alpha(y, z) f(z) d\mu(z) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \int_X (b(y) - b(x)) k_\alpha(x_0, z) f(z) d\mu(z) \right|
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left| \int_X (b(x) - b(z)) k_\alpha(x, z)(f(z) - f(x)) d\mu(z) \right. \\
&\quad - \int_X (b(y) - b(z)) k_\alpha(y, z)(f(z) - f(x)) d\mu(z) \\
&\quad \left. + \int_X (b(y) - b(x)) k_\alpha(x_0, z)(f(z) - f(x)) d\mu(z) \right| \\
&\leq \int_{2B} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
&\quad + \int_{2B} |b(y) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(y, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
&\quad + \int_{2B} |b(y) - b(x)| |k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
&\quad + \int_{X \setminus 2B} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
&\quad + \int_{X \setminus 2B} (b(y) - b(z)) |k_\alpha(x_0, z) - k_\alpha(y, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
&=: \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III} + \text{IV} + \text{V}.
\end{aligned}$$

For the first part, using the size condition of the kernel k_α and Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{I} &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{2B} \frac{d(x, z)^\beta d(x, z)^\gamma}{d(x, z)^{n-\alpha}} d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta+\gamma}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $2B(x, r) \subset B(y, 3r)$ and $2B \subset B(x_0, 4r)$, similar to the estimation of part I, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{II} &\leq \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{B(y, 3r)} \frac{d(y, z)^\beta d(x, z)^\gamma}{d(y, z)^{n-\alpha}} d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} r^{\alpha+\beta+\gamma},
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{III} &\leq \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{B(x_0, 4r)} \frac{d(x, y)^\beta d(x, z)^\gamma}{d(x_0, z)^{n-\alpha}} d\mu(z) \\
&\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} r^{\alpha+\beta+\gamma},
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we turn to estimate the last two parts. Similar to the proof of Theorem 3.1,

by the regular condition (3.2) and Lemma 2.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{IV} &\leq \int_{X \setminus 2B} |b(x) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(x, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{X \setminus 2B} d(x, z)^\beta |k_\alpha(x, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| d(x, z)^\gamma d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{X \setminus 2B} d(x, z)^{\beta+\gamma} \frac{d(x, x_0)^\varepsilon}{d(x, z)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}} d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} d(x, y)^\varepsilon \int_{X \setminus 2B} \frac{1}{d(x, z)^{n+\varepsilon-\alpha-\beta-\gamma}} d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta+\gamma},
 \end{aligned}$$

here we used $\alpha + \beta + \gamma < \varepsilon$.

For V , as the above proof, since $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z) \leq 2d(y, z)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{V} &\leq \int_{X \setminus 2B} |b(y) - b(z)| |k_\alpha(y, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| |f(z) - f(x)| d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{X \setminus 2B} d(y, z)^\beta |k_\alpha(y, z) - k_\alpha(x_0, z)| d(x, z)^\gamma d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} \int_{X \setminus B(y, r)} d(y, z)^{\beta+\gamma} \frac{d(y, x_0)^\varepsilon}{d(y, z)^{n-\alpha+\varepsilon}} d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} d(x, y)^\varepsilon \int_{X \setminus B(y, r)} \frac{1}{d(y, z)^{n+\varepsilon-\alpha-\beta-\gamma}} d\mu(z) \\
 &\leq C \|b\|_{\text{Lip}(\beta)} \|f\|_{\text{Lip}(\gamma)} d(x, y)^{\alpha+\beta+\gamma},
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, Theorem 3.2 is proved. \blacksquare

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