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"The best possible estimates for  
polynomial norms on certain  $L^p$ —spaces."

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## ABSTRACT

We disprove a conjecture of Harris [5] by showing that if  $\wedge$  is a symmetric  $m$ -linear form on an  $L_u^p$  space and  $\hat{\wedge}$  is the associated polynomial then

$$\|\wedge\| \leq \frac{m^{m/p}}{m!} \|\hat{\wedge}\|$$

for  $1 \leq p \leq m'$ . In general this inequality cannot be improved.

## Notation

Throughout this paper  $K$  denotes either the field of complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  or the field of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . If the field is not specified the results are valid in both cases,  $K = \mathbb{R}$  and  $K = \mathbb{C}$ .

If  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , we denote the conjugate exponent by  $p'$ . Thus

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1.$$

If  $(X, A, \mu)$  is a measure space we shall write  $L^p_\mu$  for the Banach space of all  $A$ -measurable functions  $f: X \rightarrow K$  for which  $\|f\|_p < \infty$  where

$$\|f\|_p = \left( \int_X |f|^p d\mu \right)^{1/p} \quad (1 \leq p < \infty)$$

and  $\|f\|_\infty$  is the infimum of those non-negative numbers  $M$  such that

$$\{x \in X : |f(x)| > M\}$$

is  $\mu$ -null set.

If  $\mu$  is the counting measure on a set  $X$ , we denote the corresponding  $L^p_\mu$ -space by  $\ell^p$  if  $X$  is countable. An element of  $\ell^p$  may be regarded as a complex sequence  $x = (\xi_n)$ , and

$$\|x\|_p = \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\xi_n|^p \right\}^{1/p}.$$

If  $A$  is a Banach space a function  $f: X \rightarrow A$  is strongly measurable if it is Borel measurable and has a separable range. (The range of  $f$  is the subset  $f(X)$  of  $A$ ). Of course, a simple function is strongly measurable if and only if it is Borel measurable.

A function  $f: X \rightarrow A$  is integrable (or Bochner integrable) if it is strongly measurable and the function  $x \rightarrow \|f(x)\|_A$  is integrable.

By  $L^p_\mu(A) = L^p(X, d\mu; A)$  we denote the space of all strongly measurable functions  $f$  such that

$$\int_X \|f(x)\|_A d\mu(x) < \infty$$

where  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , We denote by  $L_{\mu}^{\infty}(A) - L^{\infty}(X, d\mu; A)$  the completion in the sup-norm of all simple functions

$$s(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \chi_{E_i}(x), a_i \in A$$

where  $\chi_{E_i}$  is the characteristic function of the set  $E_i$ .

The completion in  $L_{\mu}^{\infty}(A)$  of the functions of the above norm with  $m(E_i) < \infty$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$  is denoted by  $L_{\mu,0}^{\infty}(A)$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $E$  and  $F$  be vector spaces over  $K$ . We write  $E^m$  for the product  $E \times E \times \dots \times E$  with  $m$  factors. An  $m$ -linear mapping  $\Lambda: E^m \rightarrow F$  is said to be symmetric if

$$\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \Lambda(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(m)})$$

for any  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in E$  and any permutation  $\sigma$  of the first  $m$  natural numbers.

Let  $\mathcal{L}_m(E, F)$  ( $\mathcal{L}_m^s(E, F)$ ) denote the space of all (symmetric)  $m$ -linear mappings  $\Lambda: E^m \rightarrow F$  and define

$$\hat{\Lambda}(x) = \Lambda(x, \dots, x).$$

A mapping  $P: E \rightarrow F$  is said to be a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $m$  if  $P = \hat{\Lambda}$  for some  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m(E, F)$ , and it is said to be a polynomial of degree  $m$  if

$$P = \sum_{i=0}^m P_i, \quad P_m \neq 0$$

where  $P_i: E \rightarrow F$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $P_0: E \rightarrow F$  is a constant mapping.

If  $\Lambda$  is a 2-linear  $\mathfrak{C}$ -valued mapping on  $\mathfrak{C}^m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , then there exists an  $m \times m$  matrix  $A$  such that  $\Lambda(x, y) = xAy^t$  for all  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathfrak{C}^m$  and all  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_m) \in \mathfrak{C}^m$ .

If  $A = (a_{ij})_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq m \\ 1 \leq j \leq m}}$  then  $\Lambda(x, y) = \sum_{i,j=1}^m a_{ij} x_i y_j$ .

Hence any  $\mathfrak{C}$ -valued homogeneous polynomial  $P$  of degree 2,

$P: \mathfrak{C}^m \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}$  has the well known form

$$P(x) = \Lambda(x, x) = \sum_{i,j=1}^m a_{ij} x_i x_j.$$

This explains the terminology.

If  $X, Y$  are normed linear spaces over  $K$  we define

$$\|\hat{\Lambda}\| = \sup \{ \|\hat{\Lambda}(x)\| : \|x\| \leq 1 \}$$

$$\|\Lambda\| = \sup \{ \|\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m)\| : \|x_j\| \leq 1 \ (j = 1, \dots, m) \}$$

for  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(X, Y)$ .

Martin [8] proved that

$$\|\hat{\Lambda}\| \leq \|\Lambda\| \leq \frac{m^m}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\| \quad (1)$$

thus answering a question of Mazur and Orlicz in the Scottish Book [9].

Harris [5] has proved that if  $X$  is an  $L_u^p$  space with  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  and  $m$  is a power of 2, then

$$\|\Lambda\| \leq \left( \frac{m^m}{m!} \right)^{\frac{|p-2|}{p}} \|\hat{\Lambda}\|$$

(2)

for all  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(X, \mathbb{C})$ . Harris also conjectured that (2) holds for all positive integers  $m$  and that the constant given is best possible when  $1 \leq p \leq 2$ .

If  $p=1$  then the constant  $\frac{m^m}{m!}$  is the best possible [4]. In fact

there exists  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(\ell^1, \mathbb{C})$  such that

$$\|\Lambda\| = \frac{m^m}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\|.$$

If  $p = 2$  inequality (2) gives  $\|\Lambda\| = \|\hat{\Lambda}\|$  for every  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(L_u^2, \mathbb{C})$ .

This is in fact a result of S. Banach, Banach [1] showed in 1938 that if  $H$  is a real Hilbert space and  $F$  a real Banach space then  $\|\Lambda\| = \|\hat{\Lambda}\|$  for every  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(H, F)$ , For expositions see [3] and [5] or [4], Banach's result also holds if  $H$  is a complex Hilbert space and  $F$  a complex Banach space. Dineen [4] states incorrectly that the problem for complex Hilbert spaces is open. In fact the proof he gives for real Hilbert spaces works just as well for complex Hilbert spaces. Harris [5] proved that if  $p = \infty$  then

(3)

for every  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^s(L_\mu^\infty, \mathbb{C})$ .

A. Tonge [10] has given another proof of this result and in the case

$m = 2$  he has examples which show that the result cannot be much improved. In this paper we prove that the constant given in (2) is not the best possible when  $1 \leq p \leq 2$  and we give the best possible constant when  $1 \leq p \leq m'$ . Our first result is an inequality due to L. Williams [11]. We shall give a simpler proof using an extension of the Riesz-Thorin interpolation theorem.

The  $n$ -th Rademacher function  $r_n(t)$  is defined on  $[0,1]$  by  $r_n(t) = \text{sign} \sin 2^n \pi t$ . The Rademacher functions  $\{r_n\}$  form an orthonormal set in  $L^2([0,1], dt)$  where  $dt$  denotes Lebesgue measure on  $[0,1]$ . The classical Clarkson inequality, which is a generalization of the Hilbert space parallelogram law, asserts that if  $f_1, f_2 \in L^p_\mu$  for  $1 < p \leq 2$  then

$$\|f_1 + f_2\|_p^{p'} + \|f_1 - f_2\|_p^{p'} \leq 2 \left[ \|f_1\|_p^p + \|f_2\|_p^p \right]^{p'/p}$$

Theorem 1. (A generalized Clarkson inequality for  $1 < p \leq 2$ ).

Let  $f_1, \dots, f_m \in L^p_\mu$  for  $1 < p \leq 2$ . Then

$$\left( \int_0^1 r_1(t) f_1 + \dots + r_m(t) f_m \|_p^{p'} dt \right)^{1/p} \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \|f_i\|_p^p \right)^{1/p} \quad (4)$$

where  $r_i(t)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  is the  $i$ -th Rademacher function.

Observe that when  $m = 2$  we recover Clarkson's original inequality in a slightly disguised form. The second topic of this paper involves a polarization formula.

Theorem 2. (Polarization formula)

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are vector spaces over  $K$ ,  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^S(X, Y)$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in X$  then

$$\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \frac{1}{m!} \int_0^1 r_1(t) \dots r_m(t) \hat{\Lambda}(r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m) dt \quad (5)$$

where  $r_i(t)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  is the  $i$ -th Rademacher function.

The main result of this paper is the following theorem.

Theorem 3

Let  $X$  be an  $L^p_\mu$  space with  $1 \leq p \leq m$ . Then

$$\|\Lambda\| \leq \frac{m^{m/p}}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\| \quad (6)$$

for all  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^S(X, K)$ .

The following example shows that the constant given in (6) cannot be improved. It is based on an argument in Dineen's book [4].

Example

Consider the real or complex sequence space  $\ell^p$  where the norm of  $x = (x_i)$  is given by

$$\|x\|_p = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |x_i|^p \right\}^{1/p} < \infty.$$

Let  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^S(\ell^p, K)$  be defined by

$$\Lambda(x^1, \dots, x^m) = \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} x_1^{\sigma(1)} \dots x_m^{\sigma(m)}$$

(7)

where  $x_i = (x_n^i)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $S_m$  is the set of permutations

of the first  $m$  natural number, If  $e^i = (\delta_k^i)_{k=1}^{\infty}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  where

$$\delta_k^i = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad i = k \\ 0 & , \quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

then  $e^i \in \ell^p$  and

$$\Lambda(e^1, \dots, e^m) = \frac{1}{m!}$$

and so  $\|\Lambda\| \geq \frac{1}{m!}$ .



on the other hand  $|\hat{\Lambda}(x)| = |\Lambda(x, \dots, x)| = |x_1 \dots x_m|$

$$= \left\{ (|x_1|^p \dots |x_m|^p)^{1/m} \right\}^{m/p} \leq \left( \frac{|x_1|^p \dots + |x_m|^p}{m} \right)^{m/p} \quad \text{by the familiar}$$

inequality between the arithmetic and geometric means of  $m$  positive numbers.

$$\text{so} \quad \|\hat{\Lambda}\| = \sup_{\|x\|_p \leq 1} |\Lambda(x)| \leq \frac{1}{m^{m/p}} .$$

Thus for the symmetric  $m$ -linear form  $\Lambda$  defined by (7) we have

$$\|\Lambda\| \leq \frac{m^{m/p}}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\| .$$

## 2 THE PROOFS

### Proof of theorem 1

We shall write  $\ell_m^p$  for the vector space of all  $m$ -tuples  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$  equipped with the norm

$$\|x\|_p = (|x_1|^p + \dots + |x_m|^p)^{1/p} \quad (1 \leq p < \infty) .$$

consider the linear operator  $T : \ell_m^2(L_\mu^2) \rightarrow L_{dt}^2(L_\mu^2)$  defined by

$$T : f = (f_1, \dots, f_m) \rightarrow r_1(t) f_1 + \dots + r_m(t) f_m \quad (*)$$

where  $f_i \in L_\mu^2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $r_i(t)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  is the  $i$ -th Rademacher function.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \|Tf\| &= \left( \int_0^1 \|r_1(t) f_1 + \dots + r_m(t) f_m\|_2^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \left\{ \int_0^1 \left( \int_X |r_1(t) f_1(x) + \dots + r_m(t) f_m(x)|^2 du(x) \right) dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \left\{ \int_X \left( \int_0^1 |r_1(t) f_1(x) + \dots + r_m(t) f_m(x)|^2 dt \right) du(x) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \text{by Fubini's theorem} \\ &= \left\{ \int_X (|f_1(x)|^2 + \dots + |f_m(x)|^2) du(x) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

by the orthonormality of the Rademacher functions

$$= \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \|f_i\|_2^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} .$$

so 
$$\left( \int_0^1 \|r_1(t)f_1 + \dots + r_m(t)f_m\|_2^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = M_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \|f_i\|_2^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

where  $M_0 = 1$  . Now we consider the linear operator

$$T : \ell_m^1(L_\mu^1) \rightarrow L_{dt,0}^\infty(L_\mu^1)$$

defined as in (\*) where  $f_i \in L_\mu^1$  .

Then 
$$\|Tf\| = \sup_t \|r_1(t)f_1 + \dots + r_m(t)f_m\|_1$$

$$\leq \sup_t \{ |r_1(t)| \|f_1\|_1 + \dots + |r_m(t)| \|f_m\|_1 \} = \sum_{i=1}^m \|f_i\|_1 .$$

so 
$$\sup_t \|r_1(t)f_1 + \dots + r_m(t)f_m\|_1 \leq M_1 \sum_{i=1}^m \|f_i\|_1$$

where  $M_1 = 1$ .

Thus from theorems 4.1.2, 5.1.1, and 5.1.2 of [2] we conclude that

$$T : \ell_m^p(L_\mu^q) \rightarrow L_{dt}^r(L_\mu^s)$$

where 
$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1-t}{2} + \frac{t}{1}, \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1-t}{2} + \frac{t}{1},$$

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1-t}{2}, \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1-t}{2} + \frac{t}{1} \text{ for } 0 < t < 1 .$$

Hence if 
$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1-t}{2} + t = \frac{1+t}{2}, 0 < t < 1$$
 then  $q = s = p, r = p'$  .

consequently the linear operator  $T : \ell_m^p(L_\mu^p) \rightarrow L_{dt}^{p'}(L_\mu^p)$  has norm  $M \leq M_0^{1-t} M_1^t = 1$  i.e.  $\|Tf\| \leq \|f\|$  which implies (4) .

### Proof of theorem 2

we have 
$$\int_0^1 r_1(t) \dots r_m(t) \hat{\Lambda}(r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m) dt$$

$$\int_0^1 r_1(t) \dots r_m(t) \underbrace{\Lambda(r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m, \dots, r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m)}_{\hat{m}} dt$$

since  $\int_0^1 r_1^{k_1}(t) \cdot r_2^{k_2}(t) \cdots r_m^{k_m}(t) dt$  is zero unless all the  $\{k_i\}_{i=1}^m$  are even, in which case the integral is 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^1 r_1(t) \cdots r_m(t) \hat{\Lambda}(r_1(t)x_1 + \cdots + r_m(t)x_m) dt \\
&= \int_0^1 r_1(t) \cdots r_m(t) \Lambda(r_1(t)x_1, r_2(t)x_2, \dots, r_m(t)x_m) dt + \dots \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 r_1(t) \cdots r_m(t) \Lambda(r_m(t)x_m, r_{m-1}(t)x_{m-1}, \dots, r_1(t)x_1) dt \\
&= m! \int_0^1 r_1^2(t) \cdots r_m^2(t) \Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) dt \\
&= m! \Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) .
\end{aligned}$$

We have used the fact that the  $m$ -linear mapping  $\Lambda$  is symmetric.

### Proof of theorem 3

For  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_m^S(X, K)$  theorem 2 gives

$$\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \frac{1}{m!} \int_0^1 r_1(t) \cdots r_m(t) \hat{\Lambda}(r_1(t)x_1 + \cdots + r_m(t)x_m) dt .$$

Since  $X$  is an  $L_\mu^p$  space we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m)| \leq \frac{1}{m!} \int_0^1 |\hat{\Lambda}(r_1(t)x_1 + \cdots + r_m(t)x_m)| dt \\
& \leq \frac{1}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\| \int_0^1 \|r_1(t)x_1 + \cdots + r_m(t)x_m\|_p^m dt
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

for  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in L_\mu^p$ . But  $m' \leq 2$  since  $m \geq 2$  and so for  $1 < p \leq m'$

(4) holds .

Now  $1 < p \leq m'$  implies  $p' \geq m$  and thus Holder's inequality gives

$$\int_0^1 \|r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m\|_p^m dt \leq \left\{ \int_0^1 \|r_1(t)x_1 + \dots + r_m(t)x_m\|_{p'}^{p'} dt \right\}^{m/p'} \quad (9)$$

Now applying (4) we have from (8) and (9) that

$$|\Lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m)| \leq \frac{1}{m!} \|\hat{\Lambda}\| \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \|x_i\|_p^p \right)^{m/p}$$

This inequality proves (6).

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