



Partial Differential Equations

Inequalities related to liftings and applications

Hoai-Minh Nguyen

Rutgers University, Department of Mathematics, Hill Center, Busch Campus, 110 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA

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Abstract

We present two inequalities for liftings of smooth maps from the torus \mathbb{T}^d into the unit circle \mathbb{S}^1 . Using these inequalities, we answer a question of J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, and P. Mironescu in [J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, P. Mironescu, Lifting, degree, and distributional Jacobian revisited, *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* 58 (2005) 529–551] and establish an estimate of liftings in the spirit of R.R. Coifman and Y. Meyer [R.R. Coifman, Y. Meyer, Une généralisation du théorème de Calderon sur l'intégrale de Cauchy, in: *Fourier Analysis*, in: *Proc. Sem., El Escorial*, vol. 1, Asoc. Mat. España, Madrid, 1980, pp. 87–116]. **To cite this article:** *H.-M. Nguyen, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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Résumé

Inégalités relatives aux relèvements et applications. Nous présentons deux inégalités pour des relèvements des applications régulières du tore \mathbb{T}^d dans le cercle unité \mathbb{S}^1 . Ces inégalités nous permettent de répondre à une question de J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, et P. Mironescu dans [J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, P. Mironescu, Lifting, degree, and distributional Jacobian revisited, *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* 58 (2005) 529–551] et d'établir une estimation des relèvements dans l'esprit de R.R. Coifman et Y. Meyer [R.R. Coifman, Y. Meyer, Une généralisation du théorème de Calderon sur l'intégrale de Cauchy, in: *Fourier Analysis*, in: *Proc. Sem., El Escorial*, vol. 1, Asoc. Mat. España, Madrid, 1980, pp. 87–116]. **Pour citer cet article :** *H.-M. Nguyen, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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J. Bourgain et H. Brezis [1] (voir aussi [2]) ont prouvé

Théorème 1. Soient $d \geq 1$ un entier, \mathbb{T}^d le tore de dimension d , $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$, et $g = e^{i\psi}$. Alors il existe $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$ telles que $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}}^2 \quad \text{et} \quad |\psi_2|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}} \leq C |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

pour une certaine constante $C > 0$ qui ne dépend que de d .

E-mail address: hoaiminh@math.rutgers.edu.

Dans cette Note, on considère la semi-norme suivante de l'espace $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{T}^d)$ ($0 < s < 1$ et $p > 1$) défini par (1) et on note $H^{\frac{1}{2}} = W^{\frac{1}{2},2}$.

Question. Soient $d \geq 1$ un entier, \mathbb{T}^d le tore de dimension d , $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$, et $g = e^{i\psi}$. Est-ce qu'il existe $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$ telles que $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}^p \quad \text{et} \quad |\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq C |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}},$$

pour une certaine constante $C > 0$ qui ne dépend que de d et de p ?

Le but principal de la Note est de donner une réponse positive à cette question au cas $d = 1$. En fait, on prouve :

Théorème 2. Soient $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^1, \mathbb{R})$, et $g = e^{i\psi}$. Alors il existe $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^1, \mathbb{R})$ telles que $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C T_{\sqrt{3}}(g) \quad \text{et} \quad |\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq C |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}},$$

pour une certaine constante $C > 0$ qui ne dépend que de d et de p . Ici T_g est défini par (2).

Un autre résultat de la Note est

Théorème 3. Soient $d \geq 1$, $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, et $g = e^{i\psi}$. Supposons que $|g|_{\text{BMO}} = \beta < 1$. Alors il existe une constante $C > 0$ qui ne dépend que de d et de p telle que

$$|\psi|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq \frac{C}{1-\beta} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}.$$

Ici la BMO-semi-norme est définie par (4).

1. Introduction and main results

J. Bourgain and H. Brezis [1] (see also [2]) proved

Theorem 1. Let $d \geq 1$, \mathbb{T}^d be the d -dimensional torus, $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Then there exist $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$ such that $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}}^2 \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi_2|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}} \leq C |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

for some constant $C > 0$ depending only on d .

In this Note, one considers the following semi-norm of $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{T}^d)$, for $0 < s < 1$ and $p > 1$,

$$|g|_{W^{s,p}} = \left(\iint_{\mathbb{T}^d \times \mathbb{T}^d} \frac{|g(x) - g(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{d+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \tag{1}$$

and one notes $H^{\frac{1}{2}} = W^{\frac{1}{2},2}$.

Their proof is delicate. Using the inequality (see e.g. [7])

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_i} \zeta dx \right| \leq C (\|\zeta\|_{L^\infty} + |\zeta|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}}) (|g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}}^2 + |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}})$$

where $g = e^{i\psi}$ and $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$ and a dual argument one can prove that there exist ψ_1 and ψ_2 such that $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$, $|\psi_1|_{BV} + |\psi_2|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}} \leq C (|g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}}^2 + |g|_{H^{\frac{1}{2}}})$ in the case $d = 1$ (argument communicated to us by H. Brezis

and P. Mironescu). From these facts, J. Bourgain, H. Brezis, and P. Mironescu suggested the following (see [3, Open Problem 1])

Question. Let $d \geq 1$ be an integer, \mathbb{T}^d be the d -dimensional torus, $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Does there exist $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{R})$ such that $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C|g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}^p \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq C|g|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}},$$

for some constant $C > 0$ depending only on d and p ?

The main goal of this Note is to give an affirmative answer to this question in the case $d = 1$. We first introduce

Definition 1. Let $d \geq 1$ be an integer, \mathbb{T}^d be the d -dimensional torus, $g \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d, \mathbb{S}^1)$ and $\delta > 0$. Define

$$\mathbf{T}_\delta(g) = \iint_{\substack{\mathbb{T}^d \times \mathbb{T}^d \\ |g(x) - g(y)| \geq \delta}} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{d+1}} \, dx \, dy. \tag{2}$$

We next prove two inequalities related to liftings.

Lemma 1. Let $d \geq 1$, $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\zeta \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Then

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_i} \zeta \, dx \right| \leq C(\|\zeta\|_{L^\infty} \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g) + |\zeta|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}), \tag{3}$$

for some constant $C > 0$ depending only on d and p .

Lemma 2. Let $d \geq 1$, $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\zeta \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Assume that $|g|_{\text{BMO}} = \beta < 1$. Then there exists a constant $C > 0$ depending only on d and p such that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_i} \zeta \, dx \right| \leq \frac{C}{1 - \beta} |\zeta|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}.$$

Hereafter, we use the following BMO-semi-norm:

$$|f|_{\text{BMO}(\Omega)} := \sup_{B(x,r) \in \Omega} \int_{B(x,r)} \left| f(\xi) - \int_{B(x,r)} f(\eta) \, d\eta \right| \, d\xi, \quad \forall f \in \text{BMO}(\Omega). \tag{4}$$

Here $B(x, r)$ denotes the ball in Ω of radius r centered at x .

Using Lemma 1 and the dual argument, we can prove

Theorem 2. Let $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^1, \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Then there exist $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^1, \mathbb{R})$ such that $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$,

$$|\psi_1|_{W^{1,1}} \leq C \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g) \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq C|g|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}},$$

for some constant $C > 0$ depending only on p .

This theorem answers positively [3, Open Problem 1], which corresponds to the question in the case $d = 1$ and $p > 2$. Our method does not seem to be generalized to the case $d \geq 2$. After our work was finished, P. Mironescu [8] informs us that the answer to the question is also true in higher dimensional cases. The reader can find many interesting questions related to liftings of \mathbb{S}^1 -valued maps in [7].

We next give a useful consequence of Lemma 2.

Theorem 3. Let $d \geq 1$, $p > 1$, $q = \frac{p}{p-1}$, $\psi \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^d; \mathbb{R})$, and $g = e^{i\psi}$. Assume that $|g|_{\text{BMO}} = \beta < 1$. Then there exists a constant $C > 0$ depending only on d and p such that

$$|\psi|_{W^{\frac{1}{p}, p}} \leq \frac{C}{1 - \beta} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p}, p}}.$$

This result is inspired by the one of R.R. Coifman and Y. Meyer [6] (see also [5]) who proved that there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that if $|g|_{\text{BMO}} < c$ then $|\psi|_{\text{BMO}} \leq 4|g|_{\text{BMO}}$ ($g = e^{i\psi}$).

2. Proofs

2.1. Proof of Lemma 1

Step 1: Proof of Lemma 1 in the one-dimensional case.

Since $\int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \psi' ds = 0$, without loss of generality, one may assume that $\int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \zeta ds = 0$. Set $\tilde{g}(s) = g(e^{is})$ and $\tilde{\zeta}(s) = \zeta(e^{is})$ for $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Let B_1 be the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^2 and $\chi \in C^1(B_1)$ be such that $\chi(x) = 1$ for $|x| \geq \frac{3}{4}$, $\chi(x) = 0$ for $|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, $0 \leq \chi(x) \leq 1$ and $|D\chi(x)| \lesssim 1$, for $x \in B_1$. Define $u : B_1 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\eta : B_1 \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ as follows

$$u[(1 - h)e^{i\theta}] = \int_{\theta}^{\theta+2\pi h} \tilde{g}(s) ds \quad \text{and} \quad \eta[(1 - h)e^{i\theta}] = \int_{\theta}^{\theta+2\pi h} \tilde{\zeta}(s) ds,$$

for $h \in [0, 1]$ and $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. Set $\tilde{\eta} = \chi\eta$ and define

$$\tilde{u}(X) = \begin{cases} u(X)/|u(X)| & \text{if } |u(X)| \geq \alpha, \\ u(X)/\alpha & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad \forall X \in B_1,$$

for some small positive regular value α of $|u|$. Then $\tilde{u} \in W^{1, \infty}(B_1)$ and $\tilde{\eta} \in W^{1, \infty}(B_1)$. Since $|\tilde{u}| \leq 1$ and $|D\tilde{u}| \lesssim |Du|$ on B_1 , integrating by part, one has

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \psi' \zeta d\sigma \right| \lesssim \|\eta\|_{L^\infty} \int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} |\det D\tilde{u}| dX + \int_{B_1} |D\tilde{\eta}| |Du| dX. \tag{5}$$

Hereafter $B_{\frac{1}{2}} := B(0, \frac{1}{2})$. Applying the method used in [9] (see also [4] in the case $\sqrt{3}$ is replaced by δ for $\delta < \sqrt{2}$), one obtains

$$\int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} |\det D\tilde{u}| dX \lesssim \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g). \tag{6}$$

On the other hand, since $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$, by Holder’s inequality, since $\tilde{\eta} = 0$ in $B_{\frac{1}{2}}$, one has

$$\int_{B_1} |D\tilde{\eta}| |Du| dX \leq \left(\int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} h^{p-2} |Du|^p dX \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} h^{q-2} |D\eta|^q dX \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \tag{7}$$

However, for $h < \frac{1}{2}$,

$$|Du|[(1 - h)e^{i\theta}] \lesssim \frac{1}{h} |\tilde{g}(\theta + 2\pi h) - \tilde{g}(\theta)| + \frac{1}{h} \int_{\theta}^{\theta+2\pi h} |\tilde{g}(s) - \tilde{g}(\theta + 2\pi h)| ds \tag{8}$$

and

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{1-h}{h^2} |\tilde{g}(\theta + 2\pi h) - \tilde{g}(\theta)|^p dh d\theta + \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{1-h}{h^2} \int_{\theta}^{\theta+2\pi h} |\tilde{g}(s) - \tilde{g}(\theta + 2\pi h)|^p ds dh d\theta \lesssim |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}^p.$$

Hence, it follows that

$$\int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} h^{p-2} |Du|^p dX \lesssim |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}^p. \tag{9}$$

Similarly,

$$\int_{B_1 \setminus B_{\frac{1}{2}}} h^{q-2} |D\eta|^q dX \lesssim |\zeta|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}}^q. \tag{10}$$

The conclusion in the case $N = 1$ follows from (5), (6), (9), and (10), since $\int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \zeta ds = 0$.

Step 2: Proof of Lemma 1 in the general case.

Without loss of generality, one may assume that $i = 1$. The proof in this case follows as in Step 1 by using the extension $u : B_1 \times \mathbb{T}^{d-1} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ defined as follows

$$u[(1-h)e^{i\theta}, x_2, \dots, x_d] = \int_{B(x,h)} \tilde{g}(s) ds,$$

where $x = (e^{i\theta}, x_2, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{T}^d$. The details are left to the reader. \square

2.2. Proof of Lemma 2

Without loss of generality, one may assume that $i = 1$. We use the same notation as in the proof of Lemma 1. The essential point in this proof is to choose $1 - \beta < \alpha < 1 - \beta/2$ such that α is a regular value of $|u|$. Then since $|g|_{\text{BMO}} = \beta$, it follows that $|u| > \alpha$ in B_1 . Hence, from the definition of \tilde{u} , $|\tilde{u}| = 1$. Thus (see (5) in the case $d = 1$)

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_1} \zeta dx \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{1-\beta} \int_{B_1 \times \mathbb{T}^{d-1}} |D\tilde{\eta}| |Du| dx.$$

Therefore, as in the proof of Lemma 1, one obtains

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_1} \zeta dx \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{1-\beta} |\zeta|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}. \quad \square$$

2.3. Proof of Theorems 2 and 3

Proof of Theorem 2. Set $D(A) = \{(\zeta, \zeta); \zeta \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^1; \mathbb{R})\}$ and define $A : D(A) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ by $A(\zeta, \zeta) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \psi' \zeta$. By Hahn–Banach’s theorem and Theorem 1, there exists $\mathbf{A} : L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^1) \times W^{\frac{1}{q},q}(\mathbb{T}^1; \mathbb{R}) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathbf{A}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2) = A(\zeta_1, \zeta_2)$ for $(\zeta_1, \zeta_2) \in D(A)$ and $|\mathbf{A}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2)| \lesssim \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}} \|\zeta_1\|_{L^\infty} + |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \|\zeta_2\|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}}$. Define $\varphi_1(\zeta) = \mathbf{A}(\zeta, 0)$ and $\varphi_2(\zeta) = \mathbf{A}(0, \zeta)$ for $\zeta \in C^1(\mathbb{T}^1)$. Then $\varphi_1 \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{T}^1)$, the space of all Radon measures on \mathbb{T}^1 , and $\varphi_2 \in [W^{\frac{1}{q},q}]^*$, the duality of $W^{\frac{1}{q},q}$, $\|\varphi_1\|_{\mathcal{M}} \lesssim \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g)$ and $\|\varphi_2\|_{[W^{\frac{1}{q},q}]^*} \lesssim |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}}$. Without loss of generality, one may assume that $\langle \varphi_1, 1 \rangle = \langle \varphi_2, 1 \rangle = 0$. Then there exist ψ_1 and ψ_2 such that $\psi'_1 = \varphi_1$, $\psi'_2 = \varphi_2$ and $\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$. It is clear to see that $|\psi_1|_{BV} \lesssim \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g)$, $|\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \lesssim |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}$. Define $\psi_{1,n} = \psi_1 * \rho_n$ and $\psi_{2,n} = \psi_1 - \psi_{1,n} + \psi_2$. Since $\psi_1 = \psi - \psi_2 \in W^{\frac{1}{p},p}$, when n is sufficiently big, one has $|\psi_{2,n}|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \leq |\psi_1 - \psi_{1,n}|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} + |\psi_2|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \lesssim |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}$. On the other hand, it is clear to see that $|\psi_{1,n}|_{BV} \leq |\psi_1| \lesssim \mathbf{T}_{\sqrt{3}}(g)$. \square

Proof of Theorem 3. For $\xi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d)$ with $\int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \xi \, dx = 0$, define ζ by $\Delta_{\mathbb{T}^d} \zeta = \xi$ and $\int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \zeta \, dx = 0$. Here $\Delta_{\mathbb{T}^d}$ denotes the Laplace–Beltrami operator on \mathbb{T}^d . Applying Lemma 2, one has

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \psi \xi \, dx \right| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x_i} \, dx \right| \lesssim \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{1}{1-\beta} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x_i} \right|_{W^{\frac{1}{q},q}} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}.$$

This implies

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \psi \xi \, dx \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{1-\beta} \|\xi\|_{[W^{\frac{1}{p},p}]^*} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}.$$

Hence,

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \left(\psi - \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \psi \right) \xi \, dx \right| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \left(\xi - \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \xi \right) \psi \, dx \right| \lesssim \frac{1}{1-\beta} \|\xi\|_{[W^{\frac{1}{p},p}]^*} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}, \quad \forall \xi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d).$$

It follows that

$$|\psi|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} = \left| \psi - \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} \psi \right|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}} \lesssim \frac{1}{1-\beta} |g|_{W^{\frac{1}{p},p}}. \quad \square$$

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