

# METHOD OF ROTATIONS FOR BILINEAR SINGULAR INTEGRALS

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ABSTRACT. Suppose that  $\Omega$  lies in the Hardy space  $H^1$  of the unit circle  $\mathbf{S}^1$  in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . We use the Calderón–Zygmund method of rotations and the uniform boundedness of the bilinear Hilbert transforms to show that the bilinear singular operator with the rough kernel p.v.  $\Omega(x/|x|)|x|^{-2}$  is bounded from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$ , for a large set of indices satisfying  $1/p + 1/q = 1/r$ . We also provide an example of a function  $\Omega$  in  $L^q(\mathbf{S}^1)$  with mean value zero to show that the singular integral operator given by convolution with p.v.  $\Omega(x/|x|)|x|^{-2}$  is not bounded from  $L^{p_1}(\mathbf{R}) \times L^{p_2}(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^p(\mathbf{R})$  for  $1/2 < p < 1$ ,  $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$ ,  $1/p_1 + 1/p_2 = 1/p$ ,  $1 \leq q < \infty$ , and  $1/p + 1/q > 2$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

Suppose that  $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$  denotes the unit sphere of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , equipped with normalized Lebesgue measure  $d\sigma(x')$  for some  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $\Omega$  be an integrable function on  $\mathbf{S}^{n-1}$  that satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbf{S}^{n-1}} \Omega(x') d\sigma(x') = 0.$$

We introduce the kernel

$$K_\Omega(x) = \frac{\Omega(x/|x|)}{|x|^n}, \quad x \neq 0,$$

which is homogeneous of degree  $-n$ , and the distribution  $W_\Omega$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbf{R}^n)$  by setting

$$\langle W_\Omega, \phi \rangle = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{|x| \geq \epsilon} K_\Omega(x) \phi(x) dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq \epsilon^{-1}} K_\Omega(x) \phi(x) dx$$

for  $\phi$  in the Schwartz class  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ . The singular integral operator  $T_\Omega$  is defined by

$$T_\Omega f(x) = \text{p.v.} \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} \frac{\Omega(y/|y|)}{|y|^n} f(x-y) dy$$

for  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ . Calderón and Zygmund [1] first studied the  $L^p$  boundedness of the operator  $T_\Omega$ . They also introduced the “method of rotations” (see [2]) to show that  $T_\Omega$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbf{R}^n)$  if the function  $\Omega$  is in  $L \log L(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ . The basic idea of the method of rotations is to write  $\Omega$  as a sum of an odd and an even function, reduce the even part to the odd using the Riesz transform identity  $-I = R_1^2 + \dots + R_n^2$ , and express the operator corresponding to the odd part of  $\Omega$  as an average of the directional Hilbert transforms. This result was extended to functions  $\Omega \in H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$  by Connett [7] and independently by Ricci and Weiss [18]. Here  $H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$  denotes the Hardy space on the sphere which, defined

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in terms of its atomic decomposition as in Coifman and Weiss [6]; for a variety of useful characterizations of  $H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$  one may consult the article of Stefanov [20]. We summarize the results concerning  $T_\Omega$  in two statements:

**Theorem A** <sup>[2]</sup> Suppose that  $\Omega$  has vanishing integral and is an odd function in  $L^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$ . Then  $T_\Omega$  is bounded from  $L^p$  to itself for  $1 < p < \infty$ .

**Theorem B** <sup>[18]</sup> Suppose that  $\Omega$  is an even function in  $H^1(\mathbf{S}^{n-1})$  (thus it has integral zero). Then  $T_\Omega$  is bounded from  $L^p$  to itself for  $1 < p < \infty$ .

In this article, we consider bilinear versions of  $T_\Omega$ . To define these operators we start with a complex-valued integrable function  $\Omega$  on the unit sphere  $\mathbf{S}^{2n-1}$  with mean value zero with respect to the surface measure. The bilinear Calderón-Zygmund singular integral operator  $T_\Omega^2$  associated with  $\Omega$  is defined by

$$(1.1) \quad T_\Omega^2(f, g)(x) = \text{p.v.} \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} K_\Omega(x - y_1, x - y_2) f(y_1) g(y_2) dy_1 dy_2,$$

for Schwartz functions  $f, g$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , where the kernel  $K_\Omega$  is given by

$$K_\Omega(x_1, x_2) = K_\Omega(x) = \frac{\Omega(x/|x|)}{|x|^{2n}}, \quad x = (x_1, x_2).$$

We are going to use a modification of the linear method of rotations to obtain the boundedness of the operator  $T_\Omega^2$  from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$ , whenever  $n = 1$  for a certain range of indices. In the bilinear case, the role of the directional Hilbert transforms is played by the bilinear Hilbert transforms and their uniform boundedness (Grafakos and Li [10], Li [16]) is crucial in our approach. We recall that if the function  $\Omega$  is smooth then the boundedness of the bilinear Calderón-Zygmund operator follows from the results of Coifman and Meyer [4], [5], Kenig and Stein [13], and Grafakos and Torres [12] for more general multilinear operators. Therefore our results are most relevant in the case the function  $\Omega$  lacks smoothness.

When  $\Omega \in L^1(\mathbf{S}^{2n-1})$  is an odd function, Grafakos and Torres [12] expressed  $T_\Omega^2$  as an average of the bilinear Hilbert transforms; so, when  $n = 1$ , the  $L^p$  boundedness of  $T_\Omega^2$  is a consequence of the uniform boundedness of the bilinear Hilbert transforms; see [10]. This provides an analog of Theorem A in the bilinear setting. Motivated by this observation, we pursue a result parallel to Theorem B in the case where  $\Omega$  is an even function, also in the case  $n = 1$ .

We denote by  $\mathcal{H}$  the set of all triples  $(1/p_1, 1/p_2, 1/p)$  such that  $1 < p_1, p_2, p < \infty$ ,  $1/p_1 + 1/p_2 = 1/p$ , and

$$(1.2) \quad \left| \frac{1}{p_1} - \frac{1}{p_2} \right| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad \left| \frac{1}{p_1} - \frac{1}{p'} \right| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad \left| \frac{1}{p_2} - \frac{1}{p'} \right| < \frac{1}{2}.$$

This set is an open hexagon in the  $(1/p_1, 1/p_2, 1/p)$  plane which is a proper superset of the set of indices  $(1/p_1, 1/p_2, 1/p)$  in the local  $L^2$  case, i.e., the case  $2 \leq p_1, p_2, p' < \infty$  and  $1/p_1 + 1/p_2 = 1/p$ .

For a function  $\Omega$ , we set  $\Omega_e(x') = \frac{1}{2}(\Omega(x') + \Omega(-x'))$  and  $\Omega_o(x') = \frac{1}{2}(\Omega(x') - \Omega(-x'))$ . Then  $\Omega_e$  is even,  $\Omega_o$  is odd and  $\Omega = \Omega_e + \Omega_o$ . The theorems below are the main results of this article.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a complex-valued integrable function on the sphere  $\mathbf{S}^1$  with mean value zero such that the even part  $\Omega_e$  lies in  $H^1(\mathbf{S}^1)$ . Then the operator  $T_\Omega^2$  is bounded from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$ , whenever  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r) \in \mathcal{H}$ .*

We extend a little the set of  $p$  and  $q$  where the Theorem 1.1 is valid for functions  $\Omega$  with slightly better integrability.

**Proposition 1.1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a complex-valued function on the sphere  $\mathbf{S}^1$  with mean value zero such that  $\Omega \in L^s(\mathbf{S}^1)$ ,  $s > 1$ . Then there is an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that the operator  $T_\Omega^2$  is bounded from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$  for indices  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r)$  in some open hexagon  $\mathcal{H}'$  with the following properties: (i) the vertices  $(1/2, 1/2, 1)$ ,  $(1/2, 0, 1/2)$ ,  $(0, 1/2, 1/2)$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  are also vertices of  $\mathcal{H}'$ ; (ii) the remaining three vertices of  $\mathcal{H}'$  are  $\epsilon$  away from the corresponding vertices of  $\mathcal{H}$ ; (iii)  $\mathcal{H}'$  strictly contains  $\mathcal{H}$ .*

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $1/2 < p < 1$ ,  $1 \leq q < \infty$ , and  $2 < \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q}$ . Then there is a **sequence  $\Omega_\epsilon$  with mean value 0 such that  $\|\Omega_\epsilon\|_{L^q(\mathbf{S}^1)} = c_q < \infty$  such that  $\|T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2\|_{L^{p_1}(\mathbf{R}) \times L^{p_2}(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow L^p(\mathbf{R})} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , when  $\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2}$  and  $1 < p_1, p_2 < \infty$ .***

## 2. PREREQUISITE MATERIAL

We introduce some well known operators. We define the Fourier transform of an integrable function  $f$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  by

$$\widehat{f}(\xi) = \mathcal{F}(f)(\xi) = \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

and by  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(f)(x) = \widehat{f}(-x)$  the inverse Fourier transform.

**Definition 2.1.** *The bilinear Hilbert transform in the direction  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  is given by*

$$\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}(f_1, f_2)(x) = \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbf{R}} f_1(x - \alpha_1 t) f_2(x - \alpha_2 t) \frac{dt}{t}, \quad x, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbf{R}.$$

One may express the bilinear Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}$  in multiplier form as

$$\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}(f_1, f_2)(x) = -i \int_{\mathbf{R}} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \widehat{f}_1(\xi_1) \widehat{f}_2(\xi_2) e^{2\pi i(\xi_1 + \xi_2)x} \text{sgn}(\alpha_1 \xi_1 + \alpha_2 \xi_2) d\xi_1 d\xi_2,$$

where  $\text{sgn}(t) = 1$  for  $t > 0$ ,  $\text{sgn}(t) = -1$  for  $t < 0$ , and  $\text{sgn}(0) = 0$ .

We recall that Lacey and Thiele [14], [15] proved that this operator is bounded from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$  whenever  $1 < p, q \leq \infty$ ,  $2/3 < r < \infty$ , and  $1/p + 1/q = 1/r$ . Grafakos and Li [10] showed that if  $2 < p, q, r' < \infty$ , the boundedness of this operator is uniform in  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ . Li [16] proved the boundedness of  $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}$  from  $L^p \times L^q$  to  $L^r$ , whenever  $1 < p, q < 2$ ,  $2/3 < r < 1$ , uniformly in  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  satisfying  $|\alpha_1/\alpha_2 - 1| \geq c_0$  (with constant depending only on  $c_0 > 0$ ). Interpolation between these results yields the uniform boundedness of  $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}$  from  $L^p \times L^q$  to  $L^r$ , whenever  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r) \in \mathcal{H}$ . This theorem provides the main tool needed to prove the results of this article.

**Theorem 2.1.** <sup>[16]</sup> *Let  $(1/p_1, 1/p_2, 1/p) \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then there is a constant  $C = C(p_1, p_2)$  such that for all  $f_1, f_2$  Schwartz functions on  $\mathbf{R}$ ,*

$$\sup_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbf{R}} \|\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}(f_1, f_2)\|_p \leq C \|f_1\|_{p_1} \|f_2\|_{p_2}.$$

The uniform boundedness of  $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2}$  in the range of the indices of Theorem 2.1 clearly implies uniform (in  $\alpha, \beta$ ) boundedness of the bilinear Fourier projection

$$(2.1) \quad P_{\alpha, \beta}(f, g)(x) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \widehat{f}(\xi) \widehat{g}(\eta) e^{2\pi i(\xi + \eta)x} \chi_{\{\arg(\xi, \eta) \in [\alpha, \beta]\}}(\xi, \eta) d\xi d\eta,$$

on the cone centered at the origin and determined by the angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Here  $\arg(\xi, \eta)$  is the unique number  $\gamma$  in  $[0, 2\pi)$  such that  $\xi = |(\xi, \eta)| \cos \gamma$  and  $\eta = |(\xi, \eta)| \sin \gamma$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** <sup>[9]</sup> *Let  $\Omega \in L^1(\mathbf{S}^1)$  have mean value zero. Then the Fourier transform of the distribution  $W_\Omega = \text{p.v. } K_\Omega$ , is the function*

$$(2.2) \quad \widehat{W}_\Omega(\nu) = \int_{\mathbf{S}^1} \Omega(\theta) \left( \log \frac{1}{|\nu \cdot \theta|} - \frac{i\pi}{2} \text{sgn}(\nu \cdot \theta) \right) d\theta,$$

which is a.e. finite.

Using this identity, we may express

$$(2.3) \quad T_\Omega^2(f, g)(x) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \widehat{f}(\eta) \widehat{g}(\xi) e^{2\pi i(\eta+\xi)x} \widehat{W}_\Omega(\xi, \eta) d\xi d\eta.$$

### 3. PROOF OF THE RESULTS

We prove Theorem 1.1.

*Proof.* We set  $B(\nu) = \widehat{W}_\Omega(\nu)$  and we split this function in two parts: the even part

$$M(\nu) = \int_{\mathbf{S}^1} \Omega(\theta) \log \frac{1}{|\theta \cdot \nu|} d\theta = \int_{\mathbf{S}^1} \Omega_e(\theta) \log \frac{1}{|\theta \cdot \nu|} d\theta$$

and the odd part

$$N(\nu) = -\frac{i\pi}{2} \int_{\mathbf{S}^1} \Omega(\theta) \text{sgn}(\theta \cdot \nu) d\theta = -\frac{i\pi}{2} \int_{\mathbf{S}^1} \Omega_o(\theta) \text{sgn}(\theta \cdot \nu) d\theta,$$

$\nu \in \mathbf{R}^2$ . All symbols  $B, M, N$  are homogeneous of degree zero.

The function  $\nu \rightarrow \arg(\nu)$  maps the unit circle  $\mathbf{S}^1$  onto the interval  $[0, 2\pi)$ . For a function  $F$  on circle  $\mathbf{S}^1$  we define another function  $\widetilde{F}$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$  by setting  $\widetilde{F}(\alpha) = F(\cos \alpha, \sin \alpha)$ . If we have  $\theta, \nu \in \mathbf{S}^1$ , we obtain  $\theta \cdot \nu = \cos(\arg \theta - \arg \nu)$ . Therefore, identity (2.2) may be written in convolution form (on the circle group  $\mathbf{T} = [0, 2\pi)$ ) as

$$\widetilde{B}(\arg \nu) = B(\nu) = N(\nu) + M(\nu) = K * \widetilde{\Omega}_o(\arg \nu) + L * \widetilde{\Omega}_e(\arg \nu),$$

where  $K(t) = -\frac{i\pi}{2} \text{sgn}(\cos t)$  and  $L(t) = -\log(|\cos t|)$ . We use this expression to compute the distributional derivative  $\partial \widetilde{B} / \partial t$  where  $t \in [0, 2\pi)$ . We get

$$\frac{\partial \widetilde{B}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial K}{\partial t} * \widetilde{\Omega}_o + \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} * \widetilde{\Omega}_e,$$

where

$$\frac{\partial K}{\partial t} = i\pi(\delta_{\frac{\pi}{2}} - \delta_{\frac{3\pi}{2}})$$

( $\delta$  is the Dirac distribution) and

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} = \tan t.$$

The derivative of  $L$  is the kernel  $\cot t$  of the classical conjugate function operator shifted by  $\pi/2$ . Since the conjugate function maps  $H^1(\mathbf{T})$  to  $L^1(\mathbf{T})$ , under the assumption of Theorem 1.1 that  $\widetilde{\Omega}_e$  lies in the Hardy space  $H^1(\mathbf{T})$ , we have that  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} * \widetilde{\Omega}_e$  lies in  $L^1(\mathbf{T})$ . Obviously,  $\frac{\partial K}{\partial t} * \widetilde{\Omega}_o$  is also an integrable function on  $[0, 2\pi)$ . We conclude that  $\frac{\partial \widetilde{B}}{\partial t} \in L^1([0, 2\pi))$ .

For  $\theta \in \mathbf{R}^2$  we express the function  $B$  as

$$B(\theta) = \widetilde{B}(\arg \theta) = \int_0^{\arg \theta} \widetilde{B}'(\alpha) d\alpha = \int_0^{2\pi} A_\alpha(\theta) \widetilde{B}'(\alpha) d\alpha,$$

where

$$A_\alpha = \chi_{\{(\xi, \eta) : \arg(\xi, \eta) \notin [0, \alpha)\}}.$$

In view of this, we are able to write the bilinear operator  $T_\Omega^2$  as

$$(3.1) \quad T_\Omega^2(f, g) = \int_0^{2\pi} \tilde{B}'(\alpha) R_\alpha(f, g) d\alpha,$$

where

$$R_\alpha(f, g)(x) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \hat{f}(\xi) \hat{g}(\eta) e^{2\pi i(\xi+\eta)x} A_\alpha(\xi, \eta) d\xi d\eta$$

is the bilinear multiplier operator whose symbol is the exterior of the cone formed by turning the positive  $\xi$  axis counterclockwise and stopping at the half line starting at the origin and passing through the point  $(\cos \alpha, \sin \alpha)$ . That is, using the notation introduced in (2.1), we have that

$$R_\alpha(f, g) = fg - P_{0,\alpha}(f, g).$$

In view of Theorem 2.1, one obtains the uniform boundedness in  $\alpha$  of the operator  $R_\alpha$  from  $L^p(\mathbf{R}) \times L^q(\mathbf{R})$  to  $L^r(\mathbf{R})$  for  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r) \in \mathcal{H}$ . The integral formula (3.1) then yields boundedness for  $T_\Omega^2$  in the same range of indices. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.1.  $\square$

The key ingredient of the proof of Theorem 1.1 is the uniform boundedness of the bilinear Hilbert transforms. Analysis of the original proof of Lacey and Thiele shows that for  $r > 2/3$  and  $1/p + 1/q = 1/r$  there is an  $M > 0$  and  $C > 0$  such that for  $f \in L^p$  and  $g \in L^q$  we have

$$\|P_\alpha(f, g)\|_r = Cd^{-M} \|f\|_p \|g\|_q,$$

where  $d = \text{dist}(\alpha, \{0, \pi/2, 3\pi/4, \pi, 3\pi/2, 7/4\pi\})$ . In other words, the norm of the bilinear Hilbert transform blows up polynomially near the critical directions. This fact together with bilinear interpolation allows us to extend the set of  $p$  and  $q$  where the Theorem 1.1 is valid a little bit for functions  $\Omega$  with better integrability.

We now prove Proposition 1.1.

*Proof.* We use the formula (3.1) again. We observe that since  $\Omega \in L^s(\mathbf{S}^1)$ , we have  $\tilde{B}'$  lies in  $L^s(\mathbf{T})$ . Due to the results of Lacey and Thiele we just mentioned, we have

$$\|R_\alpha(f, g)\|_r \leq Cd^{-M} \|f\|_p \|g\|_q,$$

whenever  $1 < p, q \leq \infty$ ,  $2/3 < r < \infty$ , and  $1/p + 1/q = 1/r$ , where  $d = \text{dist}(\alpha, D)$ ,  $D = \{0, \pi/2, 3\pi/4, \pi, 3\pi/2, 7/4\pi\}$ . We also have

$$\|R_\alpha(f, g)\|_r \leq C \|f\|_p \|g\|_q$$

for  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r) \in \mathcal{H}$ . We introduce bilinear operators

$$(3.2) \quad T_0 = \int_{\{\alpha : \text{dist}(\alpha, D) > 1/2\}} \tilde{B}'(\alpha) R_\alpha d\alpha$$

and

$$(3.3) \quad T_j = \int_{\{\alpha : 2^{-j} \geq \text{dist}(\alpha, D) > 2^{-j-1}\}} \tilde{B}'(\alpha) R_\alpha d\alpha$$

for  $j \geq 1$ . Using Hölder's inequality, we obtain that

$$\int_{\{\alpha : 2^{-j} \geq \text{dist}(\alpha, D) > 2^{-j-1}\}} |\tilde{B}'(\alpha)| d\alpha \leq C 2^{-j \frac{s-1}{s}} \|\tilde{B}'\|_s.$$

Therefore for  $j \geq 1$ , we have the estimates

$$\|T_j(f, g)\|_r \leq C 2^{-j \frac{s-1}{s}} \|\tilde{B}'\|_s \|f\|_p \|g\|_q$$

for  $(1/p, 1/q, 1/r) \in \mathcal{H}$  and

$$\|T_j(f, g)\|_r \leq C 2^{-j \frac{s-1}{s} + jM} \|\tilde{B}'\|_s \|f\|_p \|g\|_q$$

for  $1 < p, q < \infty$  and  $r > 2/3$ . Now we use standard bilinear interpolation between these two estimates to establish the  $\epsilon$ -improvement claimed by the proposition.  $\square$

We end this section by mentioning that an alternate proof of Theorem 1.1 has recently been obtained by Diestel [8] who showed that  $T_\Omega^2$  is bounded from  $L^{p_1} \times L^{p_2} \rightarrow L^p$  for an open set of triples  $(1/p_1, 1/p_2, 1/p)$ , using the assumption that  $\Omega$  lies in  $L \log L(\mathbf{S}^1)$ .

#### 4. THE COUNTEREXAMPLE

Calderón and Zygmund obtained weak type  $(1, 1)$  bounds for the operator  $T_\Omega$  whenever  $\Omega$  is sufficiently smooth; Christ and Rubio de Francia [3], and Seeger [19] extended this result to the case  $\Omega \in L \log L$ ; see also Tao [21]. While the Calderón-Zygmund method was successfully extended to the multilinear setting to yield weak type  $(1, 1, 1/2)$  bounds for certain bilinear singular integrals (i.e., bounds from  $L^1 \times L^1$  to weak  $L^{1/2}$ ), these results only apply to the case where  $\Omega$  is a Lipschitz function on the sphere; see for instance Grafakos and Torres [12]. It is not clear if bilinear endpoint results of this sort are possible when  $\Omega$  lacks smoothness. In this section, we describe another limitation, provided by the example claimed in Theorem 1.2.

*Proof.* Let  $B(x, r)$  be the ball with radius  $r$  centered at  $x$  in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . We pick two points  $a^+ = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$ ,  $a^- = -a^+$  on the circle  $\mathbf{S}^1$  and we define sets  $\mathfrak{S}^+ = \mathbf{S}^1 \cap B(a^+, \epsilon)$  and  $\mathfrak{S}^- = \mathbf{S}^1 \cap B(a^-, \epsilon)$ . Fix  $\epsilon > 0$  a small number (say smaller than  $1/100$ ) and define the function

$$\Omega_\epsilon(\nu) = \epsilon^{-1/q} (\chi_{\mathfrak{S}^+} - \chi_{\mathfrak{S}^-})(\nu), \quad \text{for } \nu \in \mathbf{S}^1.$$

It is obvious that  $\Omega$  is an odd function with integral zero over  $\mathbf{S}^1$  that satisfies:  $\|\Omega_\epsilon\|_q = c_q$ . Consider the functions  $f = \epsilon^{-1/p_1} \chi_{B(0, \epsilon')}$ ,  $g = \epsilon^{-1/p_2} \chi_{B(0, \epsilon')}$ , where  $\epsilon' = \epsilon/100$ . These functions satisfy  $\|f\|_{p_1} = \|g\|_{p_2} = c'$  where  $c'$  is a constant.

Let us fix an  $x \in \mathbf{R}$  such that  $11/10 < x < 12/10$ . Then we have

$$|T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2(f, g)(x)| \geq \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_{|y_1| < \epsilon'} \int_{|y_2| < \epsilon'} \frac{\Omega\left(\frac{(x-y_1, x-y_2)}{|(x-y_1, x-y_2)|}\right)}{|(x-y_1, x-y_2)|^2} dy_1 dy_2$$

The integral is over the set of all  $(y_1, y_2)$  in  $(-\epsilon', \epsilon') \times (-\epsilon', \epsilon')$  such that the projection of the point  $(x - y_1, x - y_2)$  onto the circle  $\mathbf{S}^1$  lies in  $\mathfrak{S}^+$  or  $\mathfrak{S}^-$ . Since we are considering an  $x$  such that  $11/10 < x < 12/10$ , this projection will only intersect the circular cap  $\mathfrak{S}^+$ . We obtain

$$|T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2(f, g)(x)| \gtrsim \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{p}} \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{q}} \left| \left\{ (y_1, y_2) \in (-\epsilon', \epsilon')^2 : \left| \frac{(x-y_1, x-y_2)}{|(x-y_1, x-y_2)|} - a^+ \right| < \epsilon \right\} \right|$$

Since  $\epsilon'$  is small compared to  $\epsilon$ , it follows that the set displayed above is the entire cube  $(-\epsilon', \epsilon')^2$ . So, we get

$$|T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2(f, g)(x)| \gtrsim \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} + 2}.$$

It follows that

$$\|T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2(f, g)\|_p^p > \int_{11/10 < x < 12/10} |T_{\Omega_\epsilon}^2(f, g)(x)|^p dx \gtrsim \epsilon^{(2-1/p-1/q)p}$$

and the latter tends to infinity as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  if  $2 - 1/p - 1/q < 0$ .  $\square$

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