

# Riemann-Liouville and higher dimensional Hardy operators for non-negative decreasing function in $L^{p(\cdot)}$ spaces

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**Abstract.** In this paper one-weight inequalities with general weights for Riemann-Liouville transform and  $n$ -dimensional fractional integral operator in variable exponent Lebesgue spaces defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are investigated. In particular, we derive necessary and sufficient conditions governing one-weight inequalities for these operators on the cone of non-negative decreasing functions in  $L^{p(x)}$  spaces.

**2000 Mathematics Subject Classification:** 42B20, 42B25, 46E30.

**Key Words and Phrases:** Variable exponent Lebesgue spaces, Riemann-Liouville transform,  $n$ -dimensional fractional integral operator, one-weight inequality.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We derive necessary and sufficient conditions governing the one-weight inequality for the Riemann-Liouville operator

$$R_\alpha f(x) = \frac{1}{x^\alpha} \int_0^x \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^{1-\alpha}} dt \quad 0 < \alpha < 1,$$

and  $n$ -dimensional fractional integral operator

$$I_\alpha g(x) = \frac{1}{|x|^\alpha} \int_{|y|<|x|} \frac{g(t)}{|x-t|^{n-\alpha}} dt \quad 0 < \alpha < n,$$

on the cone of non-negative decreasing function in  $L^{p(x)}$  spaces.

In the last two decades a considerable interest of researchers was attracted to the investigation of the mapping properties of integral operators in so called Nakano spaces  $L^{p(\cdot)}$  (see e.g., the monographs [5], [7] and references therein). Mathematical problems related to these spaces arise in applications to mechanics of the continuum medium. For example, M. Ružička [19] studied the problems in the so called rheological and electrorheological fluids, which lead to spaces with variable exponent.

Weighted estimates for the Hardy transform

$$(Hf)(x) = \int_0^x f(t) dt, \quad x > 0,$$

in  $L^{p(\cdot)}$  spaces were derived in the papers [8] for power-type weights and in [11], [12], [15], [6], [17] for general weights. The Hardy inequality for non-negative decreasing functions was studied in [3], [4].

Weighted problems for the Riemann-Liouville transform in  $L^{p(x)}$  spaces were explored in the papers [10], [11], [2], [14] (see also the monograph [18]).

Historically, one and two weight Hardy inequalities on the cone of non-negative decreasing functions defined on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  in the classical Lebesgue spaces were characterized by M. A. Arino and B. Muckenhoupt [1] and E. Sawyer [22] respectively.

It should be emphasized that the operator  $I_\alpha f(x)$  is the weighted truncated potential. The trace inequity for this operator in the classical Lebesgue spaces was established by E. Sawyer [21] (see also the monograph [13], Ch.6 for related topics).

In general, the modular inequality

$$\int_0^1 \left| \int_0^x f(t) dt \right|^{q(x)} v(x) dx \leq c \int_0^1 |f(t)|^{p(t)} w(t) dt \quad (*)$$

for the Hardy operator is not valid (see [23], Corollary 2.3, for details). Namely the following fact holds: if there exists a positive constant  $c$  such that inequality (\*) is true for all  $f \geq 0$ , where  $q$ ;  $p$ ;  $w$  and  $v$  are non-negative measurable functions, then there exists  $b \in [0, 1]$  such that  $w(t) > 0$  for almost every  $t < b$ ;  $v(x) = 0$  for almost every  $x > b$ , and  $p(t)$  and  $q(x)$  take the same constant values almost everywhere for  $t \in (0; b)$  and  $x \in (0; b) \cap \{v \neq 0\}$ .

To get the main result we use the following pointwise inequities

$$c_1(Tf)(x) \leq (R_\alpha f)(x) \leq c_2(Tf)(x),$$

$$c_3(Hg)(x) \leq (I_\alpha g)(x) \leq c_4(Hg)(x),$$

for non-negative decreasing functions, where  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$ ,  $c_3$  and  $c_4$  are constants are independents of  $f$ ,  $g$  and  $x$ , and

$$Tf(x) = \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x f(t) dt, \quad Hg(x) = \frac{1}{|x|^n} \int_{|y| < |x|} g(y) dy.$$

In the sequel by the symbol  $Tf \approx Tg$  we means that there are positive constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that  $c_1 Tf(x) \leq Tg(x) \leq c_2 Tf(x)$ . Constants in inequalities will be mainly denoted by  $c$  or  $C$ ; the symbol  $\mathbb{R}_+$  means the interval  $(0, +\infty)$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

We say that a radial function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  is decreasing if there is a decreasing function  $g : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $g(|x|) = f(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We will denote  $g$

again by  $f$ . Let  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a measurable function, satisfying the conditions  $p^- = \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} p(x) > 0$ ,  $p^+ = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} p(x) < \infty$ .

Given  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $0 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$ , and a non-negative measurable function (weight)  $u$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let us define the following local oscillation of  $p$  :

$$\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in B(0, \delta) \cap \operatorname{supp} u} p(x) - \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in B(0, \delta) \cap \operatorname{supp} u} p(x),$$

where  $B(0, \delta)$  is the ball with center 0 and radius  $\delta$ .

We observe that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)}$  is non-decreasing and positive function such that

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)} = p_u^+ - p_u^-, \quad (1)$$

where  $p_u^+$  and  $p_u^-$  denote the essential infimum and supremum of  $p$  on the support of  $u$ . respectively.

By the similar manner it is defined (see [3]) the function  $\psi_{p(\cdot), u(\eta)}$  for an exponent  $p : \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$  and weight  $v$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ :

$$\varphi_{p(\cdot), v(\varepsilon)} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in B(0, \delta) \cap \operatorname{supp} v} p(x) - \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in (0, \eta) \cap \operatorname{supp} v} p(x),$$

Let  $D(\mathbb{R}_+)$  be the class of non-negative decreasing functions on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  and let  $DR(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be the class of all non-negative radially decreasing functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Suppose that  $u$  is measurable a.e. positive function (weight) on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We denote by  $L^{p(x)}(u, \mathbb{R}^n)$ , the class of all non-negative functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for which

$$S_p(f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p(x)} u(x) d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

For essential properties of  $L^{p(x)}$  spaces we refer to the papers [16] [20] and the monographs [7], [5].

Under the symbol  $L_{dec}^{p(x)}(u, \mathbb{R}_+)$  we mean the class of non-negative decreasing functions on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  from  $L^{p(x)}(u, \mathbb{R}^n) \cap DR(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Now we list the well-known results regarding one-weight inequality for the operator  $T$ . For the following statement we refer to [1].

**Theorem A.** *Let  $r$  be constant such that  $0 < r < \infty$ . Then the inequity*

$$\int_0^\infty v(x) (Tf(x))^r dx \leq c \int_0^\infty v(x) (f(x))^r dx, \quad f \in L^r(v, \mathbb{R}_+), f \downarrow \quad (2)$$

for a weight  $v$  holds, if and only if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for all  $s > 0$

$$\int_s^\infty \left(\frac{s}{x}\right)^r v(x) dx \leq C \int_0^s v(x) dx. \quad (3)$$

Condition (3) is called  $B_r$  condition and was introduced in [1].

**Theorem B**[3]. *Let  $v$  be a weight on  $(0, \infty)$  and  $p : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $0 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$ , and assume that  $\psi_{p(\cdot), v(0^+)} = 0$ . The following facts are equivalent:*

(a) *There exists a positive constant  $c$  such that for any  $f \in D(\mathbb{R}_+)$ ,*

$$\int_0^\infty (Tf(x))^{p(x)} v(x) dx \leq C \int_0^\infty (f(x))^{p(x)} v(x) dx. \quad (4)$$

(b) *For any  $r, s > 0$ ,*

$$\int_r^\infty \left(\frac{r}{sx}\right)^{p(x)} v(x) dx \leq C \int_0^r \frac{v(x)}{s^{p(x)}} dx. \quad (5)$$

(c)  $p_{\setminus \text{supp } v} \equiv p_0$  a.e and  $v \in B_{p_0}$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *For the operators  $T, H, R_\alpha$  and  $I_\alpha$ , the following relations hold:*

(a)

$$R_\alpha f \approx Tf, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1, \quad f \in D(\mathbb{R}_+);$$

(b)

$$I_\alpha g \approx Hg, \quad 0 < \alpha < n, \quad g \in DR(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

*Proof.* (a) Upper estimate. Represent  $R_\alpha f$  as follows:

$$R_\alpha f(x) = \frac{1}{x^\alpha} \int_0^{x/2} \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^{1-\alpha}} dt + \frac{1}{x^\alpha} \int_{x/2}^x \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^{1-\alpha}} dt = S_1(x) + S_2(x).$$

Observe that if  $t < x/2$ , then  $x/2 < x-t$ . Hence

$$S_1(x) \leq c \frac{1}{x} \int_0^{x/2} f(t) dt \leq cTf(x),$$

where the positive constant  $c$  does not depend on  $f$  and  $x$ . Using the fact that  $f$  is decreasing we find that

$$S_2(x) \leq cf(x/2) \leq cTf(x).$$

Lower estimate follows immediately by using the fact that  $f$  is non-negative and the obvious estimate  $x - t \leq x$  and  $0 < t < x$ .

(b) Upper estimate. Let us represent the operator  $I_\alpha$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} I_\alpha g(x) &= \frac{1}{|x|^\alpha} \int_{|y| < |x|/2} \frac{g(y)}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} dy + \frac{1}{|x|^\alpha} \int_{|x|/2 < |y| < |x|} \frac{g(y)}{|x-y|^{n-\alpha}} dy \\ &=: S'_1(x) + S'_2(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|x|/2 \leq |x-y|$  for  $|y| < |x|/2$  we have that

$$S'_1(x) \leq \frac{c}{|x|^n} \int_{|y| < |x|/2} g(y) dy \leq cH g(x).$$

Taking into account the fact that  $f$  is radially decreasing on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  we find that there is a decreasing function  $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that

$$S'_2(x) \leq f(|x|/2) \cdot \frac{1}{|x|^\alpha} \int_{|x|/2 < |y| < |x|} |x-y|^{\alpha-n} dy$$

Let  $F_x = \{y : |x|/2 < |y| < |x|\}$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{F_x} |x-y|^{\alpha-n} dy &= \int_0^\infty |\{y \in F_x : |x-y|^{\alpha-n} > t\}| dt \\ &\leq \int_0^{|x|^{\alpha-n}} |\{y \in F_x : |x-y|^{\alpha-n} > t\}| dt + \int_{|x|^{\alpha-n}}^\infty |\{y \in F_x : |x-y|^{\alpha-n} > t\}| dt \\ &=: I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that

$$I_1 \leq \int_0^{|x|^{\alpha-n}} |B(0, |x|)| dt = c|x|^\alpha,$$

while using the fact that  $\frac{n}{n-\alpha} > 1$  we find that

$$I_2 \leq \int_{|x|^{\alpha-n}}^\infty |\{y \in F_x : |x-y| \leq t^{\frac{1}{\alpha-n}}\}| dt \leq c \int_{|x|^{\alpha-n}}^\infty t^{\frac{n}{\alpha-n}} dt = c_{\alpha,n} |x|^\alpha.$$

Finally we conclude that

$$S'_2(x) \leq cf(|x|/2) \leq cHf(x).$$

Lower estimate follows immediately by using the fact that  $f$  is non-negative and the obvious estimate  $|x - y| \leq |x|$ , where  $0 < |y| < |x|$ .  $\square$

We will also need the following statement:

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $r$  be a constant such that  $0 < r < \infty$ . Then the inequality*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (Hf(x))^r u(x) dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x))^r u(x) dx, \quad f \in L_{dec}^r(u, \mathbb{R}^n) \quad (6)$$

holds, if and only if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for all  $s > 0$ ,

$$\int_{|x|>s} \left(\frac{s}{|x|}\right)^r |x|^{r(1-n)} u(x) dx \leq C \int_{|x|<s} |x|^{r(1-n)} u(x) dx. \quad (7)$$

*Proof.* We shall see that inequality (6) is equivalent to the inequality

$$\int_0^\infty \tilde{u}(t) (T\bar{f}(t))^r dt \leq C \int_0^\infty \tilde{u}(t) (\bar{f}(t))^r dt,$$

where  $\tilde{u}(t) = t^{(n-1)(1-r)} \bar{u}(t)$ ,  $\bar{f}(t) = t^{n-1} f(t)$  and  $\bar{u}(t) = \int_{S_0} u(t\bar{x}) d\sigma(\bar{x})$ .

Indeed, using polar the coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (Hf(x))^r u(x) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x) \left( \frac{1}{|x|^n} \int_{|y|<|x|} f(y) dy \right)^r dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} \left( \frac{1}{|t|^n} \int_{|y|<|x|} f(y) dy \right)^r \left( \int_{S_0} u(t\bar{x}) d\sigma\bar{x} \right) dt \\ &= C \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} t^{-nr} t^r \left( \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \tau^{n-1} f(\tau) d\tau \right)^r \bar{u}(t) dt \\ &= C \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} t^{r(1-n)} \bar{u}(t) \left( \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \bar{f}(\tau) d\tau \right)^r dt \\ &\leq C \int_0^t \tilde{u}(t) (\bar{f}(t))^r dt \\ &= C t^{(n-1)(1-r)} t^{(n-1)r} (f(t))^r dt \\ &= C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x))^r u(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

### 3. THE MAIN RESULTS

To formulate the main results we need to prove

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $u$  be a weight on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $0 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$ , and assume that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(0^+)} = 0$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

(a) *There exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for any  $f \in DR(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (Hf(x))^{p(x)} u(x) dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x))^{p(x)} u(x) dx. \quad (8)$$

(b) *For any  $r, s > 0$ ,*

$$\int_{|x|>r} \left( \frac{r}{s|x|^n} \right)^{p_0} u(x) dx \leq C \int_{B(0,r)} \frac{|x|^{(1-n)p_0} u(x)}{s^{p_0}} dx. \quad (9)$$

(c)  $p|_{\text{supp } u} \equiv p_0$  a.e and  $u \in B_{p_0}$ .

*Proof.* We use the arguments of [3]. To show that (a) implies (b) it is enough to test the modular inequality (8) for the function  $f_{r,s}(x) = \frac{1}{s} \chi_{B(0,r)}(x) |x|^{1-n}$ ,  $s, r > 0$ . Indeed, it can be checked that

$$Hf_{r,s}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|x|^{ns}} \int_{|y|\leq|x|} |y|^{1-n} dy, & \text{if } |x| \leq r; \\ \frac{1}{|x|^{ns}} \int_{|y|\leq r} |y|^{1-n} dy, & \text{if } |x| > r \end{cases}.$$

Further, we find that

$$\int_{|x|>r} u(x) (Hf_{r,s})^{p(x)} dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x) (Hf_{r,s})^{p(x)} dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x) \left( \frac{1}{s} \chi_{B(0,r)}(x) |x|^{1-n} \right)^{p(x)} dx.$$

Therefore

$$\int_{|x|>r} u(x) \left( \frac{r}{s|x|^n} \right)^{p(x)} dx \leq C \int_{B(0,r)} \frac{|x|^{(1-n)p(x)} u(x)}{s^{p(x)}} dx.$$

To obtain (c) from (b) we are going to prove that condition (b) implies that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)}$  is a constant function, namely  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)} = p_u^+ - p_u^-$  for all  $\delta > 0$ . This fact and the hypothesis on  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)}$  implies that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot), u(\delta)} \equiv 0$ , and hence due to (1),

$$p|_{\text{supp } u} \equiv p_u^+ - p_u^- \equiv p_0 \quad \text{a.e.}$$

Finally (9) means that  $u \in B_{p_0}$ . Let us suppose that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot),u}$  is not constant. Then one of the following conditions hold:

(i) there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\alpha = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in B(0,\delta) \cap \operatorname{supp} u} p(x) < p_u^+ < \infty, \quad (10)$$

and hence, there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that

$$|\{|x| > \delta : p(x) \geq \alpha + \epsilon\} \cap \operatorname{supp} u| > 0,$$

or

(ii) there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\beta = \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in B(0,\delta) \cap \operatorname{supp} u} p(x) > p_u^- > 0, \quad (11)$$

and then, for some  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$|\{|x| > \delta : p(x) \leq \beta - \epsilon\} \cap \operatorname{supp} u| > 0.$$

In the case (i) we observe that condition (b) for  $r = \delta$ , implies that

$$\int_{|x| > \delta} \left(\frac{\delta}{s}\right)^{p(x)} \frac{u(x)}{|x|^{np(x)}} dx \leq C \int_{B(0,\delta)} \frac{|x|^{(1-n)p(x)} u(x)}{s^{p(x)}} dx.$$

Then using (10) we obtain, for  $s < \min(1, \delta)$ ,

$$\left(\frac{\delta}{s}\right)^{\alpha+\epsilon} \int_{\{|x| \geq \delta : p(x) \geq \alpha + \epsilon\}} \frac{u(x)}{|x|^{np(x)}} dx \leq \frac{C}{s^\alpha} \int_{B(0,\delta)} u(x) |x|^{(1-n)p(x)} dx,$$

which is clearly a contradiction if we let  $s \downarrow 0$ . Similarly in the case (ii) let us consider the same condition (b) for  $r = \delta$ , and fix now  $s > 1$ . Taking into account (11) we find that:

$$\frac{1}{s^{\beta-\epsilon}} \int_{\{|x| \geq \delta : p(x) \leq \beta - \epsilon\}} \left(\frac{\delta}{|x|^n}\right)^{p(x)} u(x) dx \leq \frac{C}{s^\beta} \int_{B(0,\delta)} |x|^{(1-n)p(x)} u(x) dx,$$

which is a contradiction if we let  $s \uparrow \infty$ .

Finally, the fact that condition (c) implies (a) follows from [1, Theorem 1.7]  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $u$  be a weight on  $(0, \infty)$  and  $p : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $0 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$ . Assume that  $\psi_{p(\cdot),v(0^+)} = 0$ . The following facts are equivalent:*

(i) *There exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for any  $f \in D(\mathbb{R}_+)$ ,*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}_+} (R_\alpha f(x))^{p(x)} v(x) dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} (f(x))^{p(x)} v(x) dx.$$

(ii) *condition (5) holds;*



(iii) condition (c) of Theorem B is be satiesfied.

*Proof.* Proof follows by using Theorems B and Proposition 2.1(a). □

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $u$  be a weight on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $0 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$ , and assume that  $\varphi_{p(\cdot),u(0^+)} = 0$ . The following facts are equivalent:

(i) There exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for any  $f \in DR(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (I_\alpha f(x))^{p(x)} u(x) dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x))^{p(x)} u(x) dx.$$

(ii) condition (9) holds;

(iii) condition (c) of Proposition 3.1 holds.

*Proof.* Proof follows by using Propositions 3.1 and Proposition 2.1 (b). □

**Acknowledgement.** The authors are grateful to Prof. A. Meskhi for drawing out attention to the problem studied in this paper and helpful remarks.

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