ON SOME IMPROVED WEIGHTED WEAK TYPE INEQUALITIES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we obtain the sharp quantitative matrix weighted weak type bounds for the Christ–Goldberg maximal operator $M_{W,p}$ in the case $1 < p < 2$, improving a recent result by Cruz-Uribe and Sweeting [8]. Also, in the scalar setting, we improve a weak type bound obtained in [8] for Calderón–Zygmund operators.

1. INTRODUCTION

Last years, the study of matrix weighted spaces has drawn the attention of a number of authors. See for instance [1, 11, 21]. More in particular, quantitative matrix weighted estimates have been a fruitful field of study. Our contribution falls within that framework. To be more precise, in this paper we consider weighted weak type inequalities of the form

$$(1.1) \qquad |\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |w(x)^{1/p} T(w^{-1/p} f)(x)| > \alpha\}| \leq \frac{C}{\alpha^p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p dx,$$

both in the scalar and matrix settings. Here $1 \leq p < \infty$ and T is a given operator.

Suppose first that w is a scalar weight, that is, w is a non-negative locally integrable function on $\mathbb{R}^d$. In this case inequalities (1.1) were first considered by Muckenhoupt and Wheeden in [22], and then studied by many authors, see, e.g., [7, 20, 26].

Observe that there are more standard weighted weak type inequalities of the form

$$(1.2) \qquad w\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |T(f)(x)| > \alpha\}| \leq \frac{C}{\alpha^p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p w dx,$$

where $w(E) := \int_E w dx$ for a measurable set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. Even though inequalities of the form (1.1) are interesting in their own right, they are relatively exotic compared to (1.2).

The situation is different in the matrix weight setting. Suppose that $w = W$ is a matrix weight, that is, W is an $n \times n$ self-adjoint matrix function with locally integrable entries such that $W(x)$ is positive definite for a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. For $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{C}^n$ and a linear operator T, define $T(f)$ componentwise. Then the strong $L^p(W)$ boundedness of T means that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |W(x)^{1/p} T(W^{-1/p} f)(x)|^p dx \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p dx,$$

and we see that (1.1) is its natural weak type counterpart, while (1.2) is meaningless in the matrix setting.

In what follows, we assume that T is a Dini-continuous Calderón–Zygmund operator. Given a matrix weight W and $1 \le p < \infty$, define

$$T_{W,p}f(x) := W(x)^{1/p}T(W^{-1/p}f)(x).$$

We also consider the Christ–Goldberg maximal operator defined by

$$M_{W,p}f(x) := \sup_{Q \ni x} \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |W^{1/p}(x)W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy.$$

For $p = 2$ this operator was defined by Christ–Goldberg [4] and for $p > 1$ by Goldberg [12].

Quantitative matrix weighted inequalities of the form (1.1) were first considered by Cruz-Uribe et al. [6] in the case $p = 1$. In a very recent work by Cruz-Uribe and Sweeting [8], the results of [6] have been extended to the case $p > 1$. Both results in [6, 8] can be formulated as follows.

Theorem A ([6, 8]). *Let $1 \le p < \infty$. Then*

$$(1.3) \qquad \|T_{W,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{1+\frac{1}{p}} \|f\|_{L^p},$$

and the same bound holds for $M_{W,p}$.

In [17], the authors showed that in the case $p = 1$ the quadratic dependence on $[W]_{A_1}$ in (1.3) is best possible both for $T_{W,1}$ and $M_{W,1}$.

Suppose now that $p > 1$. Consider Theorem A for $M_{W,p}$ in the matrix case and for $T_{w,p}$ in the scalar case. From the known strong type bound for $M_{W,p}$ (which is due to Buckley [2] in the scalar case, and Isralowitz–Moen [13] in the matrix case) one can conclude that

$$(1.4) \qquad \|M_{W,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \|f\|_{L^p} \quad (1 < p < \infty).$$

Also, by the A_2 theorem of Hytönen [15], the same bound holds for $T_{w,p}$ when $1 < p \le 2$. Therefore, in both cases Theorem A provides a new bound for p satisfying $1 + \frac{1}{p} < \frac{1}{p-1}$, namely, for $1 < p < \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. It was conjectured in [8] that in this range (1.3) is sharp in both cases considered above.

We will show that this conjecture is not true. For $M_{W,p}$ we obtain the sharp weak L^p bound for all $1 < p < 2$. For $T_{w,p}$ we also obtain an improvement of Theorem A but our new bound is probably not optimal. In order to state the sharpness part of our results, let us define in the scalar setting

$$\varphi_{M_p}(t) := \sup_{[w]_{A_p} \le t} \|M_{w,p}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}} \quad (t \ge 1).$$

In the similar way define $\varphi_{T_p}(t)$. Our results read as follows.

Theorem 1.1. *For all $1 < p < 2$,*

$$\|M_{W,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}} \|f\|_{L^p},$$

and, moreover, this bound is sharp in the sense that $\varphi_{M_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{2}{p}}$ for all $t \ge 1$.

Theorem 1.2. *For all* $1 < p < 2$,

$$(1.5) \qquad \|T_{w,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^{1+\frac{1}{p^2}} \big(\log([w]_{A_p} + e)\big)^{\frac{1}{p}} \|f\|_{L^p}.$$

Some comments about these results are in order.

- The example used to prove the sharpness part of Theorem 1.1 is a modification of the corresponding example constructed in the case $p = 1$ by the authors in [17].
- We emphasize that Theorem 1.2 is scalar, and it is not clear to us whether it can be extended to the matrix case. Observe that the currently best known strong type bound for $T_{W,p}$ in the matrix case is

$$\|T_{W,p}\|_{L^p \to L^p} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{1+\frac{1}{p(p-1)}} \quad (1 < p < \infty)$$

  (see [23] for the case $p = 2$ and [5] for all $p > 1$). Very recently, the sharpness of this estimate in the case $p = 2$ has been established by Domelevo, Petermichl, Treil and Volberg [9]. Observe that the sharpness in the case $p \neq 2$ is still an open question.

  The weak type bound for $T_{W,p}$ obtained in Theorem A provides a new result when $1 + \frac{1}{p} < 1 + \frac{1}{p(p-1)}$, that is, when $1 < p < 2$, and it is an important question whether in this range the exponent $1 + \frac{1}{p}$ is sharp. Theorem 1.2 shows that this is not true in the *scalar* case.
- Even though we stated Theorem 1.2 for all $1 < p < 2$, it provides a new bound in a smaller range of p satisfying $1 + \frac{1}{p^2} < \frac{1}{p-1}$.
- The same example as in Theorem 1.1 shows also that $\varphi_{H_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{2}{p}}$ for the Hilbert transform H. For this reason it is tempting to conjecture that the right-hand side of (1.5) can be improved to $[w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}}$ for all $1 < p < 2$.
- In a very recent paper [24], the authors obtained a multilinear version of Theorem A for Calderón–Zygmund operators in the scalar setting. In the linear case they recover the exponent $1 + \frac{1}{p}$ of $[w]_{A_p}$. Therefore it would be interesting to check whether the approach used in the proof of Theorem 1.2 can be extended to the multilinear setting.

We complement Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 by considering the corresponding weak type bounds in the case $p \geq 2$. First consider $M_{W,p}$. Comparing the bounds in Theorem 1.1 and in (1.4), we see that $\frac{2}{p} < \frac{1}{p-1}$ precisely when $1 < p < 2$. Therefore, it is natural to conjecture that (1.4) is sharp for $p \geq 2$. The sharpness of the strong type bound follows easily by the standard power weight example. However, the weak type case is more complicated. While we are not able to establish this conjecture, we obtain a close result by showing that (1.4) is 'almost' sharp for $p \geq 2$.

Theorem 1.3. *Let* $p \geq 2$. *Then, for all* $t \geq 1$,

$$\varphi_{M_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \big(\log(t+e)\big)^{-\frac{1}{p}}.$$

In particular, this result shows that the exponent $\frac{1}{p-1}$ in (1.4) cannot be decreased when $p \geq 2$.

Consider now $T_{w,p}$. By the A_2 theorem [15],

$$\|T_{w,p}\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [w]_{A_p} \|f\|_{L_p} \quad (p \geq 2).$$

We will show that this bound is best possible.

Theorem 1.4. *Let $p \geq 2$, and let H be the Hilbert transform. Then, for all $t \geq 1$,*

$$\varphi_{H_p}(t) \gtrsim t.$$

Observe that this result is much simpler than Theorem 1.3, namely, the example showing the sharpness here is much more elementary compared to the example used in the proof of Theorem 1.3.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains some preliminary facts. In Section 3 we prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.3, and in Section 4 we prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.4.

Throughout the paper we use the notation $A \lesssim B$ if $A \leq CB$ with some independent constant C. We write $A \simeq B$ if $A \lesssim B$ and $B \lesssim A$.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Dyadic lattices, sparse families and Calderón–Zygmund operators.
Given a cube $Q_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, let $\mathcal{D}(Q_0)$ denote the set of all dyadic cubes with respect to Q_0, that is, the cubes obtained by repeated subdivision of Q_0 and each of its descendants into 2^d congruent subcubes.

A dyadic lattice $\mathscr{D}$ in $\mathbb{R}^d$ is any collection of cubes such that

(i) if $Q \in \mathscr{D}$, then each child of Q is in $\mathscr{D}$ as well;
(ii) every 2 cubes $Q', Q'' \in \mathscr{D}$ have a common ancestor, i.e., there exists $Q \in \mathscr{D}$ such that $Q', Q'' \in \mathcal{D}(Q)$;
(iii) for every compact set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, there exists a cube $Q \in \mathscr{D}$ containing K.

Lemma 2.1. *There exist 3^d dyadic lattices $\mathscr{D}_j$ such that for every cube $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ there is a cube R from some $\mathscr{D}_j$ which contains Q and $|R| \leq 3^d|Q|$.*

This lemma and the above definition of a dyadic lattice can be found in [18].

Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a dyadic lattice. We say that a family $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathscr{D}$ is η-sparse, $0 < \eta < 1$, if for every cube $Q \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$\left| \bigcup_{Q' \in \mathcal{S}: Q' \subsetneq Q} Q' \right| \leq (1 - \eta)|Q|.$$

In particular, if $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathscr{D}$ is η-sparse, then defining for every $Q \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$E_Q = Q \setminus \bigcup_{Q' \in \mathcal{S}: Q' \subsetneq Q} Q',$$

we obtain that $|E_Q| \geq \eta|Q|$ and the sets $\{E_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}$ are pairwise disjoint. If the sparseness number is nonessential we will skip it by simply saying that a family $\mathcal{S}$ is sparse.

The following result is an immediate combination of [18, Lemmas 6.3, 6.6].

Lemma 2.2. *If $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathscr{D}$ is η-sparse and $m \geq 2$, then one can represent $\mathcal{S}$ as a disjoint union $\mathcal{S} = \cup_{j=1}^{m} \mathcal{S}_j$, where each family $\mathcal{S}_j$ is $\frac{m}{m+(1/\eta)-1}$-sparse.*

The following statement is implicit in [10]. We will give its proof for the sake of completeness.

Lemma 2.3. *Let a family $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathcal{D}$ be $\frac{7}{8}$-sparse. For a non-negative locally integrable φ and $\gamma > 0$, set*

$$F := \{Q \in \mathcal{S} : \gamma \leq \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \varphi \leq 4\gamma\}.$$

Then there exist pairwise disjoint subsets $G_Q \subset Q, Q \in F$, such that for all $Q \in F$,

$$\int_Q \varphi \leq 8 \int_{G_Q} \varphi.$$

Proof. Define

$$G_Q := Q \setminus \bigcup_{Q' \in F : Q' \subsetneq Q} Q'.$$

Then the sets $\{G_Q\}_{Q \in F}$ are pairwise disjoint. Next, let P_j be the maximal cubes of the family $\{Q' \in F : Q' \subsetneq Q\}$. Then they are pairwise disjoint, and

$$\sum_j |P_j| = |Q \setminus G_Q| \leq \frac{1}{8}|Q|.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma|Q| &\leq \int_Q \varphi = \int_{G_Q} \varphi + \sum_j \int_{P_j} \varphi \\
&\leq \int_{G_Q} \varphi + 4\gamma \sum_j |P_j| \leq \int_{G_Q} \varphi + \frac{\gamma}{2}|Q|.
\end{aligned}$$

From this, $\gamma|Q| \leq 2 \int_{G_Q} \varphi$, and the statement follows from the definition of F. $\square$

Given a sparse family $\mathcal{S}$, define for non-negative locally integrable φ the sparse operator $A_{\mathcal{S}}$ by

$$A_{\mathcal{S}}(\varphi)(x) := \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \varphi\right) \chi_Q(x).$$

We say that T is a Dini-continuous Calderón–Zygmund operator if T is a linear operator of weak type $(1,1)$ such that

$$Tf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} K(x,y)f(y)dy \quad \text{for all } x \notin \operatorname{supp} f$$

with kernel K satisfying the smoothness condition

$$|K(x,y) - K(x',y)| \leq \omega\left(\frac{|x-x'|}{|x-y|}\right) \frac{1}{|x-y|^n}$$

for $|x - x'| < |x - y|/2$, where ω is a modulus of continuity such that $\int_0^1 \omega(t)\frac{dt}{t} < \infty$.

The following result is well known, see, e.g., [19] for a short proof.

Theorem 2.4. *Let T be a Dini-continuous Calderón–Zygmund operator. There exist 3^d dyadic lattices $\mathscr{D}_j$ with the following property: for every compactly supported and integrable f, there exist η_d-sparse families $\mathcal{S}_j \subset \mathscr{D}_j$ such that*

$$(2.1) \qquad |Tf(x)| \lesssim \sum_{j=1}^{3^d} A_{\mathcal{S}_j}(|f|)(x)$$

almost everywhere.

2.2. **Matrix weights.** Recall first that a scalar weight w satisfies the scalar $A_p, p > 1$, condition if

$$[w]_{A_p} := \sup_Q \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q w \Big) \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \Big)^{p-1} < \infty.$$

We will use the following sharp reverse Hölder property from [16].

Proposition 2.5. *There exists a constant $c_d > 0$ such that for all $w \in A_p$ and every cube $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d$,*

$$(2.2) \qquad \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q w^r \Big)^{1/r} \leq 2 \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q w,$$

where $r := 1 + \frac{1}{c_d [w]_{A_p}}$.

Turn now to matrix weights. Given a $n \times n$ matrix W, define its operator norm by

$$\|W\| := \sup_{u \in \mathbb{C}^n : |u|=1} |Wu|.$$

Observe that if $\{e_j\}$ is the standard orthogonal basis of $\mathbb{C}^n$, then

$$(2.3) \qquad \|W\| \simeq \sum_{j=1}^n |We_j|.$$

Further, if V, W self-adjoint positive definite $n \times n$ matrices, then $\|VW\| = \|WV\|$.

We say that a matrix weight $W \in A_p, p > 1$, if

$$[W]_{A_p} := \sup_Q \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W(x)^{1/p} W(y)^{-1/p}\|^{p'} dy \Big)^{p/p'} dx < \infty.$$

This definition was given by Roudenko [25]. Observe that for the scalar valued weights w we obtain the standard A_p-constant $[w]_{A_p}$. It was also shown in [25] that if $W \in A_p$, then for any $u \in \mathbb{C}^n$, the scalar weight $|W^{1/p}(x)u|^p$ belongs to the scalar A_p and

$$(2.4) \qquad [|W^{1/p}(x)u|^p]_{A_p} \leq [W]_{A_p}.$$

We say that $W \in A_1$ if

$$[W]_{A_1} := \sup_Q \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{y \in Q} \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W(x)W(y)^{-1}\| dx < \infty.$$

Recall (see [12, Prop. 1.2]) that given a norm ρ on $\mathbb{C}^n$, there is a self-adjoint and positive definite matrix A, called a reducing operator, such that

$$\rho(u) \simeq |Au| \quad (u \in \mathbb{C}^n).$$

Using this result, given a $p > 1$ and a cube $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, one can define a reducing operator $V_{Q,p}$ such that

$$(2.5) \qquad |V_{Q,p}u| \simeq \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |W^{-1/p}(y)u|^{p'} dy\right)^{1/p'} \quad (u \in \mathbb{C}^n).$$

For $V_{Q,p}$ such defined we will use the following standard properties.

Proposition 2.6. *For any $f \in L^p(Q)$,*

$$\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V_{Q,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy \lesssim \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |f(y)|^p dy\right)^{1/p}.$$

Proof. By Hölder's inequality,

$$\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V_{Q,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy \leq \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|V_{Q,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)\|^{p'} dy\right)^{1/p'} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |f(y)|^p dy\right)^{1/p}.$$

Next, using (2.3), (2.5) and that the matrices $W^{-1/p}(y)$ and $V_{Q,p}^{-1}$ commute in operator norm, we obtain

$$\left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|V_{Q,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)\|^{p'} dy\right)^{1/p'} \lesssim \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |W^{-1/p}(y)V_{Q,p}^{-1}e_j|^{p'} dy\right)^{1/p'}$$

$$\lesssim \sum_{j=1}^{n} |V_{Q,p}V_{Q,p}^{-1}e_j| \leq n,$$

which, along with the previous estimate, completes the proof. $\qquad \square$

Proposition 2.7. *Assume that $W \in A_p, p > 1$. There is a constant $c_d > 0$ such that for $s := 1 + \frac{1}{c_d[W]_{A_p}}$,*

$$\left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{Q,p}\|^{sp} dx\right)^{1/s} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}.$$

Proof. Combining (2.2) with (2.4) and (2.3), we obtain

$$(2.6) \qquad \left(\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{Q,p}\|^{sp} dx\right)^{1/s} \lesssim \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{Q,p}\|^p dx.$$

Further, by (2.3) and (2.5),

$$\frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{Q,p}\|^p dx \lesssim [W]_{A_p},$$

which completes the proof. $\qquad \square$

3. The Christ–Goldberg maximal operator

In this section we prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.3. The proof of Theorem 1.1 will be based on several ingredients. The first one is a pointwise sparse bound for the local dyadic Christ–Goldberg maximal operator defined by

$$M_{Q,W,p}^d f(x) := \sup_{R \in \mathcal{D}(Q), R \ni x} \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |W^{1/p}(x)W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy.$$

In what follows, $V_{Q,p}$ denotes the reducing operator defined by (2.5).

Lemma 3.1. *There exists a sparse family $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathcal{D}(Q)$ such that for every $r > 0$ and for a.e. $x \in Q$,*

$$(3.1) \qquad M^d_{Q,W,p} f(x)^r \leq 2^r \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}} \left(\|W^{1/p}(x) V_{R,p}\| \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |V^{-1}_{R,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy \right)^r \chi_R(x).$$

Proof. We will use almost the same argument as in [14, Section 5.1.2]. Let M^d_Q denote the standard local dyadic maximal operator in the scalar setting, that is,

$$M^d_Q \varphi(x) = \sup_{R \ni x, R \in \mathcal{D}(Q)} \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |\varphi|.$$

Consider the set

$$\Omega := \{x \in Q : M^d_Q(|V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p} f|) > 2 \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p} f|\}.$$

Then $|\Omega| \leq \frac{1}{2}|Q|$. Write Ω as the union of the maximal pairwise disjoint dyadic cubes, $\Omega = \cup_j R_j$.

Assume that $x \in Q$ and $R \in \mathcal{D}(Q)$ is such that $x \in R$ and $R \cap (Q \setminus \Omega) \neq \emptyset$. Then

$$\frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |W^{1/p}(x) W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy \leq \|W^{1/p}(x) V_{Q,p}\| \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy$$

$$\leq 2\|W^{1/p}(x) V_{Q,p}\| \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy.$$

From this, setting

$$F_j := \{x \in R_j : M^d_{Q,W,p} f(x) \neq M^d_{R_j,W,p} f(x)\},$$

we obtain that for $x \in \cup_j F_j \cup (Q \setminus \Omega)$,

$$M^d_{Q,W,p} f(x) \leq 2\|W^{1/p}(x) V_{Q,p}\| \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy.$$

Hence, for all $x \in Q$,

$$M^d_{Q,W,p} f(x) \leq 2 \left(\|W^{1/p}(x) V_{Q,p}\| \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy \right) \chi_{\cup_j F_j \cup (Q \setminus \Omega)}$$

$$+ \sum_j M^d_{R_j,W,p} f(x) \chi_{R_j \setminus F_j}.$$

From this, for any $r > 0$,

$$M^d_{Q,W,p} f(x)^r \leq 2^r \left(\|W^{1/p}(x) V_{Q,p}\| \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |V^{-1}_{Q,p} W^{-1/p}(y) f(y)| dy \right)^r \chi_Q$$

$$+ \sum_j M^d_{R_j,W,p} f(x)^r \chi_{R_j}.$$

Iterating this estimate, we obtain a $\frac{1}{2}$-sparse family $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathcal{D}(Q)$, for which (3.1) holds. $\square$

Our second ingredient is a sparse operator defined in the scalar-valued setting for a sparse family $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathscr{D}$ and a sequence of non-negative functions $\lambda := \{\lambda_Q\}_{Q\in\mathcal{S}}$ by

$$T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi(x) := \sum_{Q\in\mathcal{S}} \lambda_Q(x)\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q \psi\Big)\chi_Q(x).$$

Lemma 3.2. *Suppose that there exist $r > 1$ and $A > 0$ such that*

$$\sup_{Q\in\mathcal{S}} \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q \lambda_Q(x)^r dx\Big)^{1/r} \leq A.$$

Then

$$\|T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi\|_{L^{1,\infty}} \lesssim Ar'\|\psi\|_{L^1}.$$

Proof. Let us show first that $T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}$ is bounded on $L^{(2r')'}$ and

(3.2) $$\|T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi\|_{L^{(2r')'}} \lesssim Ar'\|\psi\|_{L^{(2r')'}}.$$

By Hölder's inequality and by sparseness,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi)\varphi = \sum_{Q\in\mathcal{S}}\int_Q \lambda_Q\varphi\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q\psi\Big) \leq A\sum_{Q\in\mathcal{S}}\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q \varphi^{r'}\Big)^{1/r'}\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q\psi\Big)|Q|$$

$$\lesssim A\sum_{Q\in\mathcal{S}}\int_{E_Q}(M_{r'}\varphi)M\psi \lesssim A\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(M_{r'}\varphi)M\psi.$$

From this, applying Hölder's inequality again, we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi)\varphi \lesssim A\|M_{r'}\varphi\|_{L^{2r'}}\|M\psi\|_{L^{(2r')'}} \lesssim Ar'\|\varphi\|_{L^{2r'}}\|\psi\|_{L^{(2r')'}},$$

which, by duality, implies (3.2).

Take $\gamma > 0$ which will be chosen later on. Using the standard Calderón–Zygmund decomposition, write the set $\Omega := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : M^{\mathscr{D}}\psi(x) > \gamma\}$ as the union of the maximal cubes $Q_j \in \mathscr{D}$, and set

$$b := \sum_j \Big(\psi - \frac{1}{|Q_j|}\int_{Q_j}\psi\Big)\chi_{Q_j}, \quad g := \psi - b.$$

Then, observing that for $x \notin \Omega$, $T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}b(x) = 0$, and using (3.2), we obtain

$$|\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi(x) > 1\}| \leq |\Omega| + |\{x \notin \Omega : T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}g(x) > 1\}|$$

$$\lesssim \frac{1}{\gamma}\|\psi\|_{L^1} + (Ar')^{(2r')'}\gamma^{(2r')'-1}\|\psi\|_{L^1}.$$

Optimizing this expression with respect to γ, we obtain

$$|\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\psi(x) > 1\}| \lesssim Ar'\|\psi\|_{L^1},$$

which completes the proof. $\qquad\square$

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We start by showing that

(3.3) $$\|M_{W,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}}\|f\|_{L^p}.$$

The proof follows some ideas used in [6]. By Lemma 2.1, it suffices to prove the theorem for the dyadic maximal operator $M_{W,p}^{\mathscr{D}}f$ (where the supremum is taken over all cubes $Q \in \mathscr{D}$ containing the point x). In turn, by the standard limiting argument, given a fixed cube $Q \in \mathscr{D}$, it suffices to prove the theorem for $M_{Q,W,p}^{d}f$.

Applying Lemma 3.1 with $r = p$ along with Proposition 2.6 yields

$$M_{Q,W,p}^{d}f(x)^p \lesssim \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}} \left(\|W^{1/p}(x)V_{R,p}\|^p \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |f(y)|^p dy \right) \chi_R(x).$$

From this, setting

$$\lambda_R(x) := \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{R,p}\|^p,$$

we obtain that

$$\|M_{Q,W,p}^{d}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim \|T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\|_{L^1 \to L^{1,\infty}}^{1/p}.$$

Now, Lemma 3.2 along with Proposition 2.7 implies

$$\|T_{\lambda,\mathcal{S}}\|_{L^1 \to L^{1,\infty}} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^2,$$

which, along with the previous estimate, proves (3.3).

Turn to the second part of the theorem by showing the sharpness of (3.3) in the scalar case. We will show that for every natural $N \geq 100$, there is a weight w such that $[w]_{A_p} \simeq N$ and $\|M_{w,p}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}} \gtrsim N^{2/p}$. From this we will clearly obtain that $\varphi_{M_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{2/p}$.

The construction of the example is a modification of that in [17]. We begin with the notations presented there. For $k = 3, \ldots, N$ we denote $J_k = [2^k, 2^{k+1})$. We will split J_k into small intervals. Set $I_k = [2^k, 2^k + k)$ and $L_k = J_k \setminus I_k = [2^k + k, 2^{k+1})$. Let L_k^- and L_k^+ be the left and right halves of L_k, respectively. Next we define $(L_k^-)^1$ to be the right half of L_k^- and $(L_k^+)^1$ the left half of L_k^+. Then

- when $(L_k^-)^j = [a_k^j, b_k^j)$ is defined, let $(L_k^-)^{j+1} = [a_k^{j+1}, b_k^{j+1})$ satisfy that

$$b_k^{j+1} = a_k^j, \qquad |(L_k^-)^{j+1}| = \frac{1}{2}|(L_k^-)^j|;$$

- when $(L_k^+)^j = [c_k^j, d_k^j)$ is defined, let $(L_k^+)^{j+1} = [c_k^{j+1}, d_k^{j+1})$ satisfy that

$$c_k^{j+1} = d_k^j, \qquad |(L_k^+)^{j+1}| = \frac{1}{2}|(L_k^+)^j|.$$

The process is stopped when we have $(L_k^-)^{k-1}$ and $(L_k^+)^{k-1}$ defined, and we simply define

$$(L_k^-)^k = [2^k + k, 2^k + k + \frac{|L_k^-|}{2^{k-1}}), \ (L_k^+)^k = [2^{k+1} - \frac{|L_k^+|}{2^{k-1}}, 2^{k+1}).$$

Now we have

$$J_k = I_k \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} \left((L_k^-)^j \cup (L_k^+)^j \right) =: I_k \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} L_k^j.$$

Define

$$w_k := 2^{k+1}\chi_{I_k} + \sum_{j=\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor}^{k} 2^j \chi_{L_k^j} + k \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor - 1} \chi_{L_k^j}.$$

and our weight on $[0, 2^{N+2}]$ is

$$w(x) := \begin{cases} \chi_{[0,8)}(x) + \sum_{k=3}^{N} 2^{(k+1)(p-1)} w_k(x), & x \in [0, 2^{N+1}), \\ 2^{(N+1)p-1}, & x = 2^{N+1}, \\ w(2^{N+2} - x), & x \in [2^{N+1}, 2^{N+2}]. \end{cases}$$

Finally we extend $w(x)$ from $[0, 2^{N+2}]$ to $\mathbb{R}$ periodically with period 2^{N+2}. Since $w^{1/p}(x) > x$ on I_k, we have

$$\|w^{1/p} M(\chi_{[0,1]})\|_{L^{p,\infty}}^p \geq |\{x \in (1, \infty) : w^{1/p}(x) M(\chi_{[0,1]}) > 1\}|$$

$$\geq |\{x \in (1, \infty) : w^{1/p}(x) > x\}| \geq \sum_{k=3}^{N} |I_k| = \sum_{k=3}^{N} k \simeq N^2.$$

From this, $\|M_{w,p}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}} \gtrsim N^{2/p}$. Hence, in order to prove the claim, it remains to check that $[w]_{A_p} \simeq N$. Since w is periodic on $\mathbb{R}$ and symmetrical on $[0, 2^{N+2}]$, it suffices to prove that

$$\sup_{I \subset [0, 2^{N+1}]} \frac{w(I)}{|I|} \left(\frac{1}{|I|} \int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \right)^{p-1} \simeq N$$

First, observe that

$$|L_k^j| = 2^{-j}(2^k - k), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k-1, \qquad |L_k^k| = 2^{1-k}(2^k - k).$$

Hence when $I = [0, 2^{N+1}]$ we have

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|} = 2^{-(N+1)} \left(8 + \sum_{k=3}^{N} 2^{(k+1)(p-1)} \left(k 2^{k+1} + \sum_{j=\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor}^{k} 2^j |L_k^j| + k \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor - 1} |L_k^j| \right) \right)$$

$$\simeq 2^{-(N+1)} \left(8 + \sum_{k=3}^{N} 2^{(k+1)(p-1)} k 2^{k+1} \right) \simeq N 2^{N(p-1)}$$

and since $1 < p < 2$,

$$\frac{1}{|I|} \int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$$

$$= 2^{-(N+1)} \left(8 + \sum_{k=3}^{N} 2^{-(k+1)} \left(k 2^{-\frac{k+1}{p-1}} + \sum_{j=\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor}^{k} 2^{-\frac{j}{p-1}} |L_k^j| + k^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor - 1} |L_k^j| \right) \right)$$

$$\simeq 2^{-(N+1)} \left(8 + \sum_{k=3}^{N} 2^{-(k+1)} \left(k 2^{-\frac{k+1}{p-1}} + \sum_{j=\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor}^{k} 2^{-\frac{j}{p-1}} 2^{k-j} + k^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor - 1} 2^{k-j} \right) \right)$$

$$\lesssim 2^{-(N+1)} \left(8 + \sum_{k=3}^{N} (k 2^{-kp'} + k^{-p'} + k^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}) \right)$$

$$\simeq 2^{-N}.$$

Thus

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|}\Big(\frac{1}{|I|}\int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \simeq N.$$

We are left to prove that for any $I \subset [0, 2^{N+1}]$, there holds that

(3.4)
$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|}\Big(\frac{1}{|I|}\int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \lesssim N.$$

As that in [17], our weight is a step function (one may view $\bigcup_{j=1}^{\lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor - 1} L_k^j$ as a single interval but it is not necessary), and the jump of w from the interval $[0, 8)$ to I_3 is 2^{4p} for each two other adjacent intervals from the definition of w, the jump is at most 2^{p+1}. From this observation we have the following

Claim A. If I intersects at most m intervals from the definition of w, then

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|} \le \max_{x \in I} w(x) \le 2^{4p+(m-2)(p+1)} \operatorname*{ess\,inf}_{x \in I} w(x).$$

In what follows we will prove (3.4) according to the size of I.

Case 1. $|I| \le 8$. In this case, note that in each J_k $(k \ge 3)$, $(L_k^-)^{k-1}, (L_k^-)^k$ and $(L_k^+)^{k-1}, (L_k^+)^k$ are the smallest intervals, and

$$|(L_k^-)^{k-1}| = |(L_k^-)^k| = |(L_k^+)^{k-1}| = |(L_k^+)^k| = 1 - \frac{k}{2^k} > \frac{1}{2}.$$

Hence I intersects at most 17 intervals from the definition of w, and we are in position to apply Claim A with $m = 17$.

Case 2. $|I| > 8$. In this case, we may assume $|I| \in (2^{k_0}, 2^{k_0+1}]$ with some $k_0 \ge 3$. We may further assume $k_0 < N - 10$ as otherwise

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|}\Big(\frac{1}{|I|}\int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \lesssim \frac{w([0, 2^{N+1}])}{|[0, 2^{N+1}]|}\Big(\frac{1}{|[0, 2^{N+1}]|}\int_0^{2^{N+1}} w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \simeq N.$$

Case 2a. $I \subset [0, 2^{k_0+10}]$. Then similarly to above,

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I|}\Big(\frac{1}{|I|}\int_I w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \lesssim \frac{w([0, 2^{k_0+10}])}{|[0, 2^{k_0+10}]|}\Big(\frac{1}{|[0, 2^{k_0+10}]|}\int_0^{2^{k_0+10}} w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}\Big)^{p-1} \simeq k_0.$$

Case 2b. $I \not\subset [0, 2^{k_0+10}]$. Then $I \subset [2^{k_0+9}, 2^{N+1}]$. Denote by c_k the center of L_k.

Case 2b-a. I contains some c_k with $k \ge k_0 + 9$. Then the estimate is trivial since $I \subset (L_k^-)^1 \cup (L_k^+)^1$ and w is a constant on I.

Case 2b-b. I does not contain any c_k. In this case we may assume $I \subset (c_\ell, c_{\ell+1})$ for some $k_0 + 8 \le \ell \le N$. Suppose that $I = [a, b]$ and $a \in (L_\ell^+)^j$ for some j. If $j \le \ell - k_0 - 4$, then

$$|(L_\ell^+)^{j+1}| = |L_\ell^+|2^{-(j+1)} = \frac{2^\ell - \ell}{2^{j+2}} > 2^{k_0+1},$$

so that I will intersect at most $(L_\ell^+)^j$ and $(L_\ell^+)^{j+1}$ and we again apply Claim A with $m = 2$.

If $j \geq \ell - k_0 - 3$, note that then

$$I \subset \bigcup_{j=\ell-k_0-3}^{\ell} (L_\ell^+)^j \cup \bigcup_{i=\ell-k_0-2}^{\ell+1} (L_{\ell+1}^-)^i \cup I_{\ell+1}.$$

Here $i \geq \ell - k_0 - 2$ since

$$|(L_{\ell+1}^-)^{\ell-k_0-2}| = \frac{2^{\ell+1} - (\ell+1)}{2^{\ell-k_0-1}} > \frac{2^\ell}{2^{\ell-k_0-1}} = 2^{k_0+1} \geq \ell(I).$$

Hence we have

$$\frac{w(I)}{|I| \operatorname*{ess\,inf}_{x \in I} w(x)}$$

$$\leq \frac{\sum_{j=\ell-k_0-3}^{\ell} w((L_\ell^+)^j) + \sum_{i=\ell-k_0-2}^{\ell+1} w((L_{\ell+1}^-)^i) + w(I_{\ell+1})}{2^{k_0} 2^{\ell-k_0-3} 2^{(\ell+1)(p-1)}}$$

$$\lesssim \frac{\sum_{j=\ell-k_0-3}^{\ell} \max\{2^j, \ell\} \cdot 2^{\ell-j} + \sum_{i=\ell-k_0-2}^{\ell+1} \max\{2^i, \ell+1\} \cdot 2^{\ell+1-i} + (\ell+1)2^{\ell+2}}{2^\ell} \lesssim \ell,$$

from which (3.4) follows immediately.

It remains to consider the case $a \in I_{\ell+1} \cup L_{\ell+1}^-$. However, in this case we just need to discuss whether $b \in (L_{\ell+1}^-)^j$ with some $j \leq \ell - k_0 - 3$ or not, which is completely similar. This completes the proof. $\square$

Remark 3.3. Recall that the Hilbert transform is defined by

$$Hf(x) = \text{P.V.} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{f(t)}{x-t} dt.$$

Let w be the weight constructed in the sharpness part of Theorem 1.1. Using that $H(\chi_{[0,1]})(x) > \frac{1}{x}$ for all $x > 1$, we have

$$\|w^{1/p} H(\chi_{[0,1]})\|_{L^{p,\infty}}^p \geq |\{x \in (1,\infty) : w^{1/p}(x) > x\}| \gtrsim N^2.$$

From this, exactly as for the maximal operator, we obtain that $\varphi_{H_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{2}{p}}$.

Remark 3.4. Recall that the scalar A_∞ constant is defined by

$$[w]_{A_\infty} := \sup_Q \frac{1}{w(Q)} \int_Q M(w\chi_Q).$$

Given a matrix weight W and $p > 1$, define its $A_{\infty,p}^{sc}$ constant by

$$[W]_{A_{\infty,p}^{sc}} := \sup_{u \in \mathbb{C}^n} [|W^{1/p}u|^p]_{A_\infty}.$$

Then it is easy to show that Proposition 2.7 holds with $s = 1 + \frac{1}{c[W]_{A_{\infty,p}^{sc}}}$. As a result, a statement of Theorem 1.1 can be written in the form

$$\|M_{W,p}f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \lesssim \left([W]_{A_p}[W]_{A_{\infty,p}^{sc}}\right)^{1/p} \|f\|_{L^p}.$$

Remark 3.5. Lemma 3.1 can also be used in order to give a simple proof of the strong type bound

$$(3.5) \qquad \|M_{W,p}f\|_{L^p} \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \|f\|_{L^p} \quad (1 < p < \infty)$$

(see [2, 13]).

Indeed, as before, it suffices to prove (3.5) for $M_{Q,W,p}^d f$. By Lemma 3.1,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_Q M_{Q,W,p}^d f(x)^p dx &\lesssim \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}} \int_R \|W^{1/p}(x)V_{R,p}\|^p dx \left(\frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |V_{R,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy \right)^p \\
&\lesssim [W]_{A_p} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}} \left(\frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |V_{R,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy \right)^p |R| \\
&\lesssim [W]_{A_p} \int_Q \tilde{M}_{w,Q}^{\mathscr{D}} f(x)^p dx,
\end{aligned}
$$

where

$$\tilde{M}_{w,Q}^{\mathscr{D}} f(x) := \sup_{R \ni x, R \in \mathcal{D}(Q)} \frac{1}{|R|} \int_R |V_{R,p}^{-1}W^{-1/p}(y)f(y)|dy.$$

Next, the standard machinery based on the reverse Hölder estimate shows that

$$\tilde{M}_{w,Q}^{\mathscr{D}} f(x) \lesssim M_{Q,p-\varepsilon}(|f|)(x),$$

where $\varepsilon \simeq [W]_{A_p}^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$. Hence,

$$\int_Q M_{Q,W,p}^d f(x)^p dx \lesssim [W]_{A_p} \int_Q M_{Q,p-\varepsilon}(|f|)(x)^p dx \lesssim [W]_{A_p}^{\frac{p}{p-1}} \int_Q |f(x)|^p dx,$$

which proves (3.5).

We conclude this section by proving Theorem 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Denote

$$\mathcal{N} := \|M_{p,w}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}}.$$

Then trivially

$$(3.6) \qquad \|w^{\frac{1}{p}}\mathcal{H}(fw^{-\frac{1}{p}})\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \le \mathcal{N}\|f\|_{L^p},$$

where $\mathcal{H}$ stands for the Hardy operator

$$\mathcal{H}(f)(x) := \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x f(t)dt.$$

By duality (3.6) is equivalent to that

$$(3.7) \qquad \|\mathcal{H}^*(w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)} \lesssim \mathcal{N}|E|^{\frac{1}{p'}}$$

holds for any measurable set E, where $\sigma := w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$.

Next let us choose specific w and E in (3.7). The construction of w here is actually a slight modification of the one in the proof of Theorem 1.1. For $k = k_0(p) + 1, k_0(p) + 2, \ldots$, where $k_0(p)$ is the minimal integer such that $k^{p-1} < 2^{k-1}$, let $J_k = [2^k, 2^{k+1})$

and $I_k = [2^k, 2^k + k^{p-1}]$. Then define $(L_k^-)^j$ and $(L_k^+)^j$ with the same logic, and let $L_k^j = (L_k^-)^j \cup (L_k^+)^j$. For sufficiently large N, our weight on $[0, 2^{N+2}]$ is

$$
w(x) := \begin{cases} \chi_{[0,2^{k_0(p)+1})}(x) + \sum\limits_{k=k_0(p)+1}^{N} 2^{(k+1)(p-1)} w_k(x), & x \in [0, 2^{N+1}), \\ 2^{(N+1)p-1}, & x = 2^{N+1}, \\ w(2^{N+2} - x), & x \in [2^{N+1}, 2^{N+2}], \end{cases}
$$

where

$$
w_k(x) := 2^{k+1} \chi_{I_k} + \sum_{j=\lfloor (p-1)\log_2 k \rfloor}^{k} 2^j \chi_{L_k^j} + k^{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor (p-1)\log_2 k \rfloor - 1} \chi_{L_k^j}.
$$

With similar computations as before we get

$$
\sigma(J_k) \gtrsim k 2^{-kp'} + k^{-p'} + k^{-1} \geq k^{-1}
$$

and

$$
[w]_{A_p} \sim N^{p-1} (\log N)^{p-1}.
$$

Take $E = \cup_{k=k_0(p)+1}^{N} I_k$. Then for fixed k and $x \in J_k$, we have

$$
\mathcal{H}^*(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)(x) = \int_x^{+\infty} \frac{w^{\frac{1}{p}}(t) \chi_E(t)}{t} dt
$$

$$
\sim \int_x^{+\infty} \chi_E(t) dt \sim \sum_{j=k+1}^{N} |I_j| \sim (N^p - k^p).
$$

In particular, if $k \leq N/2$, then

$$
\mathcal{H}^*(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)(x) \sim N^p.
$$

Then it follows that

$$
\|\mathcal{H}^*(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)}^{p'} \gtrsim \sum_{k=k_0(p)+1}^{N/2} N^{pp'} \sigma(J_k) \gtrsim \sum_{k=k_0(p)+1}^{N/2} N^{pp'} k^{-1} \sim N^{pp'} \log N.
$$

Since $|E| \sim N^p$, by (3.7) we have

$$
\mathcal{N} \gtrsim \frac{N^p (\log N)^{\frac{1}{p'}}}{N^{p-1}} = N(\log N)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \gtrsim \frac{[w]_{A_p}^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}{(\log [w]_{A_p})^{\frac{1}{p}}},
$$

from which $\varphi_{M_p}(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \left(\log(t + e) \right)^{-\frac{1}{p}}$. □

4. Calderón–Zygmund operators

In this section we prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.4. Let us start with some preparations needed to prove Theorem 1.2. First, by Theorem 2.4, it suffices to prove this result for the sparse operator $A_{\mathcal{S}}$ instead of T, where $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathscr{D}$ and $\mathcal{S}$ is η_d-sparse. Second, by Lemma 2.2, one can split $\mathcal{S} = \cup_{j=1}^{m_d} \mathcal{S}_j$, where each $\mathcal{S}_j$ will be at least $\frac{7}{8}$-sparse. Therefore, without loss of generality, we will assume in this section that $\mathcal{S}$ is $\frac{7}{8}$-sparse.

Given a cube $Q \in \mathcal{S}$, denote $\mathcal{S}(Q) := \{Q' \in \mathcal{S} : Q' \subseteq Q\}$. We start with the following weak type estimate for the sparse operator $A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}$.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $p > 2$. For every measurable set $E \subset Q$,*

$$\|A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p,\infty}(w)} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}} \log([w]_{A_p} + e)|E|^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Proof. Since the A_p-constant is invariant under pointwise multiplication by a constant, it suffices to show that

$$(4.1) \qquad w\{x \in Q : A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 2\} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^2 (\log([w]_{A_p} + e))^p |E|.$$

Let M_Q denote the maximal operator restricted to a cube Q. By the weak type bound of M (see [2]),

$$w\{x \in Q : M_Q(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 1/4\} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}|E|.$$

Therefore, setting

$$G := \{x \in Q : A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 2, M_Q(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) \le 1/4\},$$

we obtain

$$(4.2) \qquad w\{x \in Q : A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 2\} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}|E| + w(G).$$

Denote

$$F_k := \{Q' \in \mathcal{S}(Q) : 4^{-k-1} < \frac{1}{|Q'|} \int_{Q'} w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E \le 4^{-k}\}.$$

Then, for $x \in G$,

$$A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x).$$

From this, for a natural N which will be chosen later on we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
w(G) \;\le\; & w\{x \in Q : \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 1\} \\
+ \;& w\{x \in Q : \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 1\} := I + II.
\end{aligned}
$$

Let us start by estimating I. We have

$$I^{\frac{1}{p}} \le \sum_{k=1}^{N} \|A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^p(w)}.$$

By Lemma 2.3, there exist pairwise disjoint (for $Q' \in F_k$) sets $G_{Q'} \subset Q'$ such that

$$A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) \le 8 \sum_{Q' \in F_k} \Big(\frac{1}{|Q'|} \int_{G_{Q'}} (w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\Big)\chi_{Q'}(x).$$

Hence, by Hölder's inequality for weak norms,

$$\int_Q A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)g \le 8 \int_Q \Big(\sum_{Q' \in F_k} \Big(\frac{1}{|Q'|}\int_{Q'} g\Big)\chi_{G_{Q'}}\Big)w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E$$

$$\leq 8\int_Q (M_Q g)w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E \leq 8\|(M_Q g)w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\|_{L^{p',\infty}}|E|^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

By Theorem 1.1 (note that $p' < 2$),

$$\|(M_Q g)w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\|_{L^{p',\infty}} \lesssim [w^{-p'/p}]_{A_{p'}}^{\frac{2}{p'}}\|g\|_{L^{p'}(w^{-p'/p})} = [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}}\|g\|_{L^{p'}(w^{-p'/p})}.$$

Combining this with the previous estimate, we obtain by duality that

$$\|A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^p(w)} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}}|E|^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

which implies

(4.3) $$I \lesssim N^p[w]_{A_p}^2|E|.$$

Turn to II. Since $\sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} < 1$, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
II &\leq w\{x \in Q : \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} 2^{-k}\} \\
&\leq \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} w\{x \in Q : A_{F_k}(w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)(x) > 2^{-k}\} \\
&\leq \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} w\{x \in Q : 4^{-k}\sum_{Q'\in F_k}\chi_{Q'}(x) > 2^{-k}\} \\
&\leq \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty}\sum_{R\in F_k^m} w\{x \in R : \sum_{Q'\in F_k(R)}\chi_{Q'}(x) > 2^k\},
\end{aligned}
$$

where F_k^m stands for the maximal cubes of F_k (hence they are pairwise disjoint).

By sparseness, there is an absolute $c > 0$ such that

$$|\{x \in R : \sum_{Q'\in F_k(R)}\chi_{Q'}(x) > 2^k\}| \leq e^{-c2^k}|R|.$$

Combining this with the sharp quantitative reverse Hölder property expressed in (2.2), we obtain

$$w\{x \in R : \sum_{Q'\in F_k(R)}\chi_{Q'}(x) > 2^k\} \leq e^{-\frac{c2^k}{[w]_{A_p}}}w(R).$$

It follows that

$$II \leq \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} 4^{kp}e^{-\frac{c2^k}{[w]_{A_p}}}\sum_{R\in F_k^m} 4^{-kp}w(R).$$

By the disjointness of R and Hölder's inequality,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{R\in F_k^m} 4^{-kp}w(R) &\leq 4^p\sum_{R\in F_k^m}\left(\frac{1}{|R|}\int_R w^{-\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E\right)^p w(R) \\
&\leq 4^p\sum_{R\in F_k^m}\left(\frac{1}{|R|}\int_R w^{-p'/p}\right)^{p/p'}\frac{w(R)}{|R|}|E\cap R|
\end{aligned}
$$

$$\leq 4^p[w]_{A_p} \sum_{R \in F_k^m} |E \cap R| \leq 4^p[w]_{A_p}|E|.$$

Thus, we obtain

$$II \lesssim [w]_{A_p}|E| \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} 4^{kp} e^{-\frac{c2^k}{[w]_{A_p}}}.$$

Now observe that one can choose $N \simeq \log([w]_{A_p} + e)$ so that

$$4^{kp} e^{-\frac{c2^k}{[w]_{A_p}}} \leq 2^{-k}$$

for every $k \geq N$. Then we obtain that

$$II \lesssim [w]_{A_p}|E|.$$

Combining this estimate with (4.3) yields

$$w(G) \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^2 (\log([w]_{A_p} + e))^p |E|.$$

This along with (4.2) proves (4.1), and therefore the proof is complete. □

Remark 4.2. Observe that Lemma 4.1 implies easily its global version with $Q = \mathbb{R}^d$ and an arbitrary sparse family $\mathcal{S}$. Indeed, by the limiting argument, one can assume that $\mathcal{S}$ is finite. Then one can write $\mathcal{S} = \cup_j \mathcal{S}(Q_j)$, where Q_j are the maximal cubes of $\mathcal{S}$, and apply (4.1) for each Q_j.

An important ingredient in the proof of Theorem 1.2 is the following equivalence relation of Cascante–Ortega–Verbitsky [3] saying that for every dyadic lattice $\mathscr{D}$ and a non-negative sequence $\{\lambda_Q\}_{Q \in \mathscr{D}}$,

$$(4.4) \qquad \Big\| \sum_{Q \in \mathscr{D}} \lambda_Q \chi_Q \Big\|_{L^p(w)} \simeq \Big(\sum_{Q \in \mathscr{D}} \lambda_Q \Big(\frac{1}{w(Q)} \sum_{Q' \in \mathscr{D}, Q' \subseteq Q} \lambda_{Q'} w(Q') \Big)^{p-1} w(Q) \Big)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Let $\mathcal{N}$ denote the best possible constant in the inequality

$$\|w^{\frac{1}{p}} A_{\mathcal{S}}(fw^{-\frac{1}{p}})\|_{L^{p,\infty}} \leq \mathcal{N}\|f\|_{L^p}.$$

By duality this is equivalent to that for every measurable set E,

$$\|A_{\mathcal{S}}(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)} \lesssim \mathcal{N}|E|^{\frac{1}{p'}},$$

where $\sigma := w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$. Further, by (4.4),

$$(4.5) \qquad \|A_{\mathcal{S}}(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)} \lesssim \Big(\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}} \lambda_Q \Big(\frac{1}{\sigma(Q)} \sum_{Q' \in \mathcal{S}(Q)} \lambda_{Q'} \sigma(Q') \Big)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \sigma(Q) \Big)^{\frac{1}{p'}},$$

where $\lambda_Q := \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q (w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E) dx$.

By Hölder's inequality for weak norms,

$$(4.6) \qquad \sum_{Q' \in \mathcal{S}(Q)} \lambda_{Q'} \sigma(Q') = \int_Q A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E) \sigma \leq \|A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{\frac{1}{p}} \chi_E)\|_{L^{p',\infty}(\sigma)} \sigma(Q)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Next, by Lemma 4.1 (note that $p' > 2$),

$$\|A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p',\infty}(\sigma)} = \|A_{\mathcal{S}(Q)}(\sigma^{-\frac{1}{p'}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p',\infty}(\sigma)}$$
$$\lesssim [\sigma]_{A_{p'}}^{\frac{2}{p'}}\log([\sigma]_{A_{p'}} + e)|E \cap Q|^{\frac{1}{p'}} \simeq [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p}}\log([w]_{A_p} + e)|E \cap Q|^{\frac{1}{p'}}.$$

Combining this estimate with (4.6) and (4.5) yields

$$(4.7) \qquad \|A_{\mathcal{S}}(w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)} \lesssim C([w]_{A_p})\Big(\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q (w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\Big)\sigma(Q)^{\frac{1}{p'}}|E \cap Q|^{\frac{1}{p}}\Big)^{\frac{1}{p'}},$$

where

$$C([w]_{A_p}) := [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{2}{p^2}}(\log([w]_{A_p} + e))^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Let $r := 1 + \frac{1}{c_d[w]_{A_p}}$ as in Proposition 2.5. Then

$$\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q (w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E) \leq \Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q w^r\Big)^{\frac{1}{pr}}\Big(\frac{|E \cap Q|}{|Q|}\Big)^{\frac{1}{(pr)'}}$$
$$\leq 2^{1/p}\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q w\Big)^{\frac{1}{p}}\Big(\frac{|E \cap Q|}{|Q|}\Big)^{\frac{1}{(pr)'}}$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}\Big(\frac{1}{|Q|}\int_Q (w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\Big)\sigma(Q)^{\frac{1}{p'}}|E \cap Q|^{\frac{1}{p}} \lesssim [w]_{A_p}^{\frac{1}{p}}\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}\Big(\frac{|E \cap Q|}{|Q|}\Big)^{\frac{1}{p}+\frac{1}{(pr)'}}|Q|.$$

By sparseness, take pairwise disjoint sets $E_Q \subset Q$ such that $|E_Q| \simeq |Q|$. Then

$$\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}\Big(\frac{|E \cap Q|}{|Q|}\Big)^{\frac{1}{p}+\frac{1}{(pr)'}}|Q| \lesssim \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{S}}\int_{E_Q}(M\chi_E)^{1+\frac{1}{p}(1-\frac{1}{r})}dx$$
$$\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(M\chi_E)^{1+\frac{1}{p}(1-\frac{1}{r})} \lesssim \frac{1}{r-1}|E| \lesssim [w]_{A_p}|E|.$$

Combining the two previous estimates with (4.7), we obtain

$$\|A_{\mathcal{S}}(w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}(\sigma)} \lesssim C([w]_{A_p})[w]_{A_p}^{(1+\frac{1}{p})\frac{1}{p'}}|E|^{\frac{1}{p'}}.$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{N} \lesssim C([w]_{A_p})[w]_{A_p}^{(1+\frac{1}{p})\frac{1}{p'}} = [w]_{A_p}^{1+\frac{1}{p^2}}(\log([w]_{A_p} + e))^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

which completes the proof. $\qquad\square$

Turn to the proof of Theorem 1.4. As we mentioned in the Introduction, the example used here is much simpler than in the previous proofs.

Proof of Theorem 1.4. Denote

$$\mathcal{N} := \|H_{p,w}\|_{L^p \to L^{p,\infty}}.$$

Then, by duality,

$$\|w^{-\frac{1}{p}}H(w^{\frac{1}{p}}\chi_E)\|_{L^{p'}} \lesssim \mathcal{N}|E|^{\frac{1}{p'}} \quad (p \geq 2).$$

Taking here $E = (0, 1)$, we obtain

$$(4.8) \qquad \Big(\int_0^1 w^{\frac{1}{p}} dx \Big) \Big(\int_2^\infty \frac{w^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}(x)}{x^{p'}} dx \Big)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \lesssim \mathcal{N}.$$

Let w_ε be a radial weight on $\mathbb{R}$ defined on $[0, \infty)$ by

$$w_\varepsilon(x) := \begin{cases} \varepsilon^{-1}, & 0 \le x \le 1, \\ x^{-(1-\varepsilon)}, & x > 1. \end{cases}$$

Then the left-hand side of (4.8) is equivalent to ε^{-1}. Therefore, the lower bound $\varphi_{H_p}(t) \gtrsim t$ would follow if we show that $[w_\varepsilon]_{A_p} \lesssim \varepsilon^{-1}$.

Denote

$$A_p(w_\varepsilon; I) := \Big(\frac{1}{|I|} \int_I w_\varepsilon \Big) \Big(\frac{1}{|I|} \int_I w_\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \Big)^{p-1}.$$

Since w_ε is radial, it suffices to consider the intervals $I \subset [0, \infty)$.

Denote $v_\varepsilon(x) := |x|^{-(1-\varepsilon)}$. We will use the well known fact that $[v_\varepsilon]_{A_p} \simeq \varepsilon^{-1}$. Hence, the case where $I \subset (1, \infty)$ is trivial. Suppose that $I \cap [0, 1] \ne \emptyset$. Then we have to consider only two cases. Assume that $|I| \le 1$. Then

$$A_p(w_\varepsilon; I) \le \frac{\sup_I w_\varepsilon}{\inf_I w_\varepsilon} \lesssim \varepsilon^{-1}.$$

Suppose now that $|I| > 1$. Then

$$A_p(w_\varepsilon; I) \lesssim \sup_{h>2} A_p(w_\varepsilon; (0, h)).$$

Observe that for $h > 2$,

$$\frac{1}{h} \int_0^h w_\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} h^{\varepsilon - 1}$$

and

$$\Big(\frac{1}{h} \int_0^h w_\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \Big)^{p-1} \lesssim \Big(\frac{1}{h} \big(\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}} + h^{\frac{p-\varepsilon}{p-1}} \big) \Big)^{p-1} \lesssim h^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

Therefore,

$$\sup_{h>1} A_p(w_\varepsilon; (0, h)) \lesssim \frac{1}{\varepsilon},$$

and the proof is complete. $\qquad \square$

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