



# Hankel matrices acting on the Hardy space $H^1$ and on Dirichlet spaces

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## Abstract

If  $\mu$  is a finite positive Borel measure on the interval  $[0, 1)$ , we let  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  be the Hankel matrix  $(\mu_{n,k})_{n,k \geq 0}$  with entries  $\mu_{n,k} = \mu_{n+k}$ , where, for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\mu_n$  denotes the moment of order  $n$  of  $\mu$ . This matrix induces formally the operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(f)(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_{n,k} a_k) z^n$  on the space of all analytic functions  $f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ , in the unit disc  $\mathbb{D}$ . When  $\mu$  is the Lebesgue measure on  $[0, 1)$  the operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is the classical Hilbert operator  $\mathcal{H}$  which is bounded on  $H^p$  if  $1 < p < \infty$ , but not on  $H^1$ . J. Cima has recently proved that  $\mathcal{H}$  is an injective bounded operator from  $H^1$  into the space  $\mathcal{C}$  of Cauchy transforms of measures on the unit circle. The operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is known to be well defined on  $H^1$  if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and in such a case we have that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(H^1) \subset \mathcal{C}$ . Furthermore, it is bounded from  $H^1$  into itself if and only if  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure. In this paper we prove that when  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure then  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  actually maps  $H^1$  into the space of Dirichlet type  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ . We discuss also the range of  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  on  $H^1$  when  $\mu$  is an  $\alpha$ -logarithmic 1-Carleson measure ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ ). We study also the action of the operators  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  on Bergman spaces and on Dirichlet spaces.

**Keywords** Hankel matrix · Generalized Hilbert operator · Hardy spaces · Cauchy transforms · Weighted Bergman spaces · Dirichlet spaces · Duality

**Mathematics Subject Classification** 47B35 · 30H10

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### 1 Introduction and main results

Let  $\mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$  denote the open unit disc in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $\partial\mathbb{D}$  will be the unit circle. The space of all analytic functions in  $\mathbb{D}$  will be denoted by  $\mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$ . We also let  $H^p$  ( $0 < p \leq \infty$ ) be the classical Hardy spaces. We refer to [11] for the notation and results regarding Hardy spaces.

For  $0 < p < \infty$  and  $\alpha > -1$  the weighted Bergman space  $A_\alpha^p$  consists of those  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  such that

$$\|f\|_{A_\alpha^p} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left( (\alpha + 1) \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha |f(z)|^p dA(z) \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

Here,  $dA$  stands for the area measure on  $\mathbb{D}$ , normalized so that the total area of  $\mathbb{D}$  is 1. Thus  $dA(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} dx dy = \frac{1}{\pi} r dr d\theta$ . The unweighted Bergman space  $A_0^p$  is simply denoted by  $A^p$ . We refer to [12,18,29] for the notation and results about Bergman spaces.

The space of Dirichlet type  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  ( $0 < p < \infty$  and  $\alpha > -1$ ) consists of those  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $f' \in A_\alpha^p$ . In other words, a function  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  belongs to  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  if and only if

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |f(0)| + \left( (\alpha + 1) \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha |f'(z)|^p dA(z) \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

The Hilbert matrix is the infinite matrix  $\mathcal{H} = \left( \frac{1}{k+n+1} \right)_{k,n \geq 0}$ . It induces formally an operator, called the Hilbert operator, on spaces of analytic functions as follows:

If  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$ , then we set

$$\mathcal{H}f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \left( \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{a_k}{n+k+1} \right) z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{1}$$

whenever the right-hand side of (1) makes sense for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and the resulting function is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ . We define also

$$\mathcal{I}f(z) = \int_0^1 \frac{f(t)}{1-tz} dt, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{2}$$

if the integrals in the right-hand side of (2) converge for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and the resulting function  $\mathcal{I}f$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ . It is clear that the correspondences  $f \mapsto \mathcal{H}f$  and  $f \mapsto \mathcal{I}f$  are linear.

If  $f \in H^1$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$ , then by the Fejér-Riesz inequality [11, Theorem 3.13, p.46] and Hardy’s inequality [11, p.48], we have

$$\int_0^1 |f(t)| dt \leq \pi \|f\|_{H^1} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{a_n}{n+1} \leq \pi \|f\|_{H^1}.$$

This immediately yields that if  $f \in H^1$  then  $\mathcal{H}f$  and  $\mathcal{I}f$  are well defined analytic functions in  $\mathbb{D}$  and that, furthermore,  $\mathcal{H}f = \mathcal{I}f$ .

Diamantopoulos and Siskakis [9] proved that  $\mathcal{H}$  is a bounded operator from  $H^p$  into itself if  $1 < p < \infty$ , but this is not true for  $p = 1$ . In fact, they proved that  $\mathcal{H}(H^1) \not\subseteq H^1$ . Cima [6] has recently proved the following result.

- Theorem A** (i) *The operator  $\mathcal{H}$  maps  $H^1$  into the space  $\mathcal{C}$  of Cauchy transforms of measures on the unit circle  $\partial\mathbb{D}$ .*  
 (ii)  *$\mathcal{H} : H^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is injective.*

We recall that if  $\sigma$  is a finite complex Borel measure on  $\partial\mathbb{D}$ , the Cauchy transform  $C\sigma$  is defined by

$$C\sigma(z) = \int_{\partial\mathbb{D}} \frac{d\sigma(\xi)}{1 - \bar{\xi}z}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

We let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the space of all finite complex Borel measure on  $\partial\mathbb{D}$ . It is a Banach space with the total variation norm. The space of Cauchy transforms is  $\mathcal{C} = \{C\sigma : \sigma \in \mathcal{M}\}$ . It is a Banach space with the norm  $\|C\sigma\| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{\|\tau\| : C\tau = C\sigma\}$ . We mention [7] as an excellent reference for the main results about Cauchy transforms. We let  $\mathcal{A}$  denote the disc algebra, that is, the space of analytic functions in  $\mathbb{D}$  with a continuous extension to the closed unit disc, endowed with the  $\|\cdot\|_{H^\infty}$ -norm. It turns out [7, Chapter 4] that  $\mathcal{A}$  can be identified with the pre-dual of  $\mathcal{C}$  via the pairing

$$\langle g, C\sigma \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} g(re^{i\theta}) \overline{C\sigma(re^{i\theta})} d\theta. \tag{3}$$

This is the basic ingredient used by Cima to prove the inclusion  $\mathcal{H}(H^1) \subset \mathcal{C}$ .

Now we turn to consider a class of operators which are natural generalizations of the operators  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{I}$ . If  $\mu$  is a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$  and  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we let  $\mu_n$  denote the moment of order  $n$  of  $\mu$ , that is,  $\mu_n = \int_{[0,1)} t^n d\mu(t)$ , and we define  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  to be the Hankel matrix  $(\mu_{n,k})_{n,k \geq 0}$  with entries  $\mu_{n,k} = \mu_{n+k}$ . The measure  $\mu$  induces formally the operators  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  on spaces of analytic functions as follows:

$$\mathcal{I}_\mu f(z) = \int_{[0,1)} \frac{f(t)}{1 - tz} d\mu(t), \quad \mathcal{H}_\mu f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \mu_{n+k} \right) z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D},$$

for  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  being such that the terms on the right-hand sides make sense for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , and the resulting functions are analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ . If  $\mu$  is the Lebesgue measure on  $[0, 1)$  the matrix  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  reduces to the classical Hilbert matrix and the operators  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  are simply the operators  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{I}$ .

If  $I \subset \partial\mathbb{D}$  is an interval,  $|I|$  will denote the length of  $I$ . The Carleson square  $S(I)$  is defined as  $S(I) = \{re^{it} : e^{it} \in I, \quad 1 - \frac{|I|}{2\pi} \leq r < 1\}$ .

If  $s > 0$  and  $\mu$  is a positive Borel measure on  $\mathbb{D}$ , we shall say that  $\mu$  is an  $s$ -Carleson measure if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$\mu(S(I)) \leq C|I|^s, \quad \text{for any interval } I \subset \partial\mathbb{D}.$$

A 1-Carleson measure will be simply called a Carleson measure. We recall that Carleson [4] proved that  $H^p \subset L^p(d\mu)$  ( $0 < p < \infty$ ) if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure (see also [11, Chapter 9]).

For  $0 \leq \alpha < \infty$  and  $0 < s < \infty$  we say that a positive Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  is an  $\alpha$ -logarithmic  $s$ -Carleson measure if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$\frac{\mu(S(I)) \left(\log \frac{2\pi}{|I|}\right)^\alpha}{|I|^s} \leq C, \quad \text{for any interval } I \subset \partial\mathbb{D}.$$

A positive Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $[0, 1)$  can be seen as a Borel measure on  $\mathbb{D}$  by identifying it with the measure  $\tilde{\mu}$  defined by

$$\tilde{\mu}(A) = \mu(A \cap [0, 1)), \quad \text{for any Borel subset } A \text{ of } \mathbb{D}.$$

In this way a positive Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $[0, 1)$  is an  $s$ -Carleson measure if and only if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$\mu([t, 1)) \leq C(1-t)^s, \quad 0 \leq t < 1.$$

We have a similar statement for  $\alpha$ -logarithmic  $s$ -Carleson measures.

The action of the operators  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  on distinct spaces of analytic functions have been studied in a number of articles (see, e. g., [2,5,14–16,22,25,27]).

Combining results of [14] and of [16] we can state the following result.

**Theorem B** *Let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ .*

- (i) *The operator  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  is well defined on  $H^1$  if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure.*
- (ii) *If  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure, then the operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is also well defined on  $H^1$  and  $\mathcal{I}_\mu f = \mathcal{H}_\mu f$  for all  $f \in H^1$ .*
- (iii) *The operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $H^1$  into itself if and only if  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure.*

Galanopoulos and Peláez [14, Theorem 2.2] proved the following.

**Theorem C** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ . If  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure then  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(H^1) \subset \mathcal{C}$ .*

This result is stronger than Theorem A(i). In view of these results, the following question arises naturally.

**Question 1** *Suppose that  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure on  $[0, 1)$ . What can we say about the image  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(H^1)$  of  $H^1$  under the action of the operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$ ?*

To answer Question 1, let us start noticing that it is known that, for  $0 < p \leq 2$ , the space of Dirichlet type  $\mathcal{D}_{p-1}^p$  is continuously included in  $H^p$  (see [26, Lemma 1.4]). In particular, the space  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$  is continuously included in  $H^1$ . In fact, the estimates obtained by Vinogradov in the proof of his lemma easily yield the inequality

$$\|f\|_{H^1} \leq 2\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_0^1}, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}_0^1.$$

We shall prove that if  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure on  $[0, 1)$  then  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(H^1)$  is contained in the space  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ . Actually, we have the following stronger result.

**Theorem 1** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $H^1$  into itself.
- (iii)  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $H^1$  into  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ .
- (iv)  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$  into  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ .

There is a gap between Theorem C and Theorem 1 and so it is natural to discuss the range of  $H^1$  under the action of  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  when  $\mu$  is an  $\alpha$ -logarithmic 1-Carleson measure with  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . We shall prove the following result.

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ . Suppose that  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and that  $\mu$  is an  $\alpha$ -logarithmic 1-Carleson measure. Then  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  maps  $H^1$  into the space  $\mathcal{D}^1(\log^{\alpha-1})$  defined as follows:*

$$\mathcal{D}^1(\log^{\alpha-1}) = \left\{ f \in \text{Hol}(\mathbb{D}) : \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f'(z)| \left( \log \frac{2}{1-|z|} \right)^{\alpha-1} dA(z) < \infty \right\}.$$

These results will be proved in Sect. 2. Since the space of Dirichlet type  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$  has showed up in a natural way in our work, it seems natural to study the action of the operators  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  on the Bergman spaces  $A_\alpha^p$  and the Dirichlet spaces  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  for general values of the parameters  $p$  and  $\alpha$ . This will be done in Sect. 3.

Throughout this paper the letter  $C$  denotes a positive constant that may change from one step to the next. Moreover, for two real-valued functions  $E_1, E_2$  we write  $E_1 \lesssim E_2$ , or  $E_1 \gtrsim E_2$ , if there exists a positive constant  $C$  independent of the arguments such that  $E_1 \leq CE_2$ , respectively  $E_1 \geq CE_2$ . If we have  $E_1 \lesssim E_2$  and  $E_1 \gtrsim E_2$  simultaneously then we say that  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are equivalent and we write  $E_1 \asymp E_2$ .

## 2 Proofs of the theorems 1 and 2

**Proof of Theorem 1** We already know that (i) and (ii) are equivalent by Theorem B.

To prove that (i) implies (iii) we shall use some results about the Bloch space. We recall that a function  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  is said to be a Bloch function if

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |f(0)| + \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) |f'(z)| < \infty.$$

The space of all Bloch functions will be denoted by  $\mathcal{B}$ . It is a non-separable Banach space with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{B}}$  just defined. A classical source for the theory of Bloch functions is [1]. The closure of the polynomials in the Bloch norm is the *little Bloch space*  $\mathcal{B}_0$  which consists of those  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  with the property that

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1} (1 - |z|^2) |f'(z)| = 0.$$

It is well known that (see [1, p. 13])

$$|f(z)| \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{B}} \log \frac{2}{1 - |z|}. \tag{4}$$

The basic ingredient to prove that (i) implies (iii) is the fact that the dual  $(\mathcal{B}_0)^*$  of the little Bloch space can be identified with the Bergman space  $A^1$  via the integral pairing

$$(h, f) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{f(z)} dA(z), \quad h \in \mathcal{B}_0, f \in A^1. \tag{5}$$

(See [29, Theorem 5. 15]).

Let us proceed to prove the implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Assume that  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure and take  $f \in H^1$ . We have to show that  $\mathcal{I}_{\mu} f \in \mathcal{D}_0^1$  or, equivalently, that  $(\mathcal{I}_{\mu} f)' \in A^1$ . Since  $\mathcal{B}_0$  is the closure of the polynomials in the Bloch norm, it suffices to show that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_{\mu} f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}} \|f\|_{H^1}, \quad \text{for any polynomial } h. \tag{6}$$

So, let  $h$  be a polynomial. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_{\mu} f)'(z)} dA(z) &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{\left( \int_{(0,1)} \frac{t f(t)}{(1 - tz)^2} d\mu(t) \right)} dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \int_{(0,1)} \frac{t \overline{f(t)}}{(1 - t\bar{z})^2} d\mu(t) dA(z) \\ &= \int_{(0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{h(z)}{(1 - t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) d\mu(t). \end{aligned}$$

Because of the reproducing property of the Bergman kernel [29, Proposition 4.23],  $\int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{h(z)}{(1-t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) = h(t)$ . Then it follows that

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) = \int_{[0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} h(t) d\mu(t). \quad (7)$$

Since  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure, the measure  $\nu$  defined by

$$d\nu(t) = \log \frac{2}{1-t} d\mu(t)$$

is a Carleson measure [15, Proposition 2.5]. This implies that

$$\int_{[0,1)} |f(t)| \log \frac{2}{1-t} d\mu(t) \lesssim \|f\|_{H^1}.$$

This and (4) yield

$$\int_{[0,1)} \left| t \overline{f(t)} h(t) \right| d\mu(t) \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}} \|f\|_{H^1}.$$

Using this and (7), (6) follows.

Since  $\mathcal{D}_0^1 \subset H^1$ , the implication (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv) is trivial. To prove that (iv) implies (i) we shall use the following result of Pavlović [23, Theorem 3.2].

**Theorem D** *Let  $f \in \text{Hol}(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ , and suppose that the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is a decreasing sequence of non-negative real numbers. Then  $f \in \mathcal{D}_0^1$  if and only if  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n+1} < \infty$ , and we have*

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_0^1} \asymp \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n+1}.$$

Now we turn to prove the implication (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Assume that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$  into  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ . We argue as in the proof of Theorem 1.1 of [16]. For  $\frac{1}{2} < b < 1$  set

$$f_b(z) = \frac{1-b^2}{(1-bz)^2}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

We have  $f'_b(z) = \frac{2b(1-b^2)}{(1-bz)^3}$  ( $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ). Then, using Lemma 3.10 of [29] with  $t = 0$  and  $c = 1$ , we see that

$$\|f_b\|_{\mathcal{D}_0^1} \asymp \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{1-b^2}{|1-bz|^3} dA(z) \asymp 1.$$

Since  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is bounded on  $\mathcal{D}_0^1$ , this implies that

$$1 \gtrsim \|\mathcal{H}_\mu(fb)\|_{\mathcal{D}_0^1}. \quad (8)$$

We also have,

$$f_b(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{k,b} z^k, \quad \text{with } a_{k,b} = (1-b^2)(k+1)b^k.$$

Since the  $a_{k,b}$ 's are positive, it is clear that the sequence  $\{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_{n+k} a_{k,b}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  of the Taylor coefficients of  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(fb)$  is a decreasing sequence of non-negative real numbers. Using this, Theorem D, (8), and the definition of the  $a_{k,b}$ 's, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\gtrsim \|\mathcal{H}_\mu(fb)\|_{\mathcal{D}_0^1} \gtrsim \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_{n+k} a_{k,b} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{k,b} \int_{[0,1)} t^{n+k} d\mu(t) \right) \\ &\gtrsim (1-b^2) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kb^k \int_{[b,1)} t^{n+k} d\mu(t) \right) \\ &\gtrsim (1-b^2) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kb^{n+2k} \mu([b, 1)) \right) \\ &= (1-b^2) \mu([b, 1)) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b^n}{n} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kb^{2k} \right) \\ &= (1-b^2) \mu([b, 1)) \left( \log \frac{1}{1-b} \right) \frac{b^2}{(1-b^2)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Then it follows that

$$\mu([b, 1)) = O\left(\frac{1-b}{\log \frac{1}{1-b}}\right), \quad \text{as } b \rightarrow 1.$$

Hence,  $\mu$  is a 1-logarithmic 1-Carleson measure.  $\square$

Before embarking on the proof of Theorem 2 we have to introduce some notation and results. Following [24], for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  the weighted Bergman space  $A^1(\log^\alpha)$  consists of those  $f \in \mathcal{Hol}(\mathbb{D})$  such that

$$\|f\|_{A^1(\log^\alpha)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(z)| \left( \log \frac{2}{1-|z|} \right)^\alpha dA(z) < \infty.$$



This is a Banach space with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{A^1(\log^\alpha)}$  just defined and the polynomials are dense in  $A^1(\log^\alpha)$ . Likewise, we define

$$\mathcal{D}^1(\log^\alpha) = \{f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D}) : f' \in A^1(\log^\alpha)\}.$$

We define also the Bloch-type space  $\mathcal{B}(\log^\alpha)$  as the space of those  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  such that

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}(\log^\alpha)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |f(0)| + \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) \left( \log \frac{2}{1 - |z|} \right)^{-\alpha} |f'(z)| < \infty,$$

and

$$\mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha) = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D}) : |f'(z)| = o\left( \frac{\left( \log \frac{2}{1 - |z|} \right)^\alpha}{1 - |z|} \right), \text{ as } |z| \rightarrow 1 \right\}.$$

The space  $\mathcal{B}(\log^\alpha)$  is a Banach space and  $\mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha)$  is the closure of the polynomials in  $\mathcal{B}(\log^\alpha)$ .

We remark that the spaces  $\mathcal{D}^1(\log^\alpha)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(\log^\alpha)$ , and  $\mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha)$  were called  $\mathfrak{B}_{\log^\alpha}^1$ ,  $\mathfrak{B}_{\log^\alpha}$ , and  $\mathfrak{b}_{\log^\alpha}$  in [24]. Pavlović identified in [24, Theorem 2. 4] the dual of the space  $\mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha)$ .

**Theorem E** *Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then the dual of  $\mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha)$  is  $A^1(\log^\alpha)$  via the pairing*

$$\langle h, g \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(z) \overline{g(z)} dA(z), \quad h \in \mathcal{B}_0(\log^\alpha), \quad g \in A^1(\log^\alpha).$$

Actually, Pavlović formulated the duality theorem in another way but it is a simple exercise to show that his formulation is equivalent to this one which is better suited to our work.

**Proof of Theorem 2** Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$  and  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Suppose that  $\mu$  is an  $\alpha$ -logarithmic 1-Carleson measure. Take  $f \in H^1$ . We have to show that  $\mathcal{I}_\mu f \in \mathcal{D}^1(\log^{\alpha-1})$  or, equivalently, that  $(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)' \in A^1(\log^{\alpha-1})$ . Bearing in mind Theorem E and the fact that  $\mathcal{B}_0(\log^{\alpha-1})$  is the closure of the polynomials in  $\mathcal{B}(\log^{\alpha-1})$ , it suffices to show that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}(\log^{\alpha-1})} \|f\|_{H^1}, \quad \text{for any polynomial } h. \quad (9)$$

So, let  $h$  be a polynomial. Arguing as in the proof of the implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) in Theorem 1 we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) = \int_{[0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} h(t) d\mu(t). \quad (10)$$

Now, it is clear that

$$|h(z)| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}(\log^{\alpha-1})} \left( \log \frac{2}{1-|z|} \right)^\alpha,$$

and then it follows that

$$\int_{[0,1)} |t \overline{f(t)} h(t)| d\mu(t) \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}(\log^{\alpha-1})} \int_{[0,1)} |f(t)| \left( \log \frac{2}{1-t} \right)^\alpha d\mu(t).$$

Using the fact that the measure  $\left( \log \frac{2}{1-t} \right)^\alpha d\mu(t)$  is a Carleson measure [15, Proposition 2.5], this implies that

$$\int_{[0,1)} |t \overline{f(t)} h(t)| d\mu(t) \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}(\log^{\alpha-1})} \|f\|_{H^1}.$$

This and (10) give (9). □

### 3 The operators $\mathcal{H}_\mu$ acting on Bergman spaces and on Dirichlet spaces

Jevtić and Karapetrović [20] have recently proved the following result.

**Theorem F** *The Hilbert operator  $\mathcal{H}$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  into itself if and only if  $\max(-1, p - 2) < \alpha < 2p - 2$ .*

Now, it is well known that  $A_\alpha^p = \mathcal{D}_{\alpha+p}^p$  (see [29, Theorem 4.28]). Hence, regarding Bergman spaces Theorem F says the following.

**Corollary G** *The Hilbert operator  $\mathcal{H}$  is a bounded operator from  $A_\alpha^p$  into itself if and only if  $-1 < \alpha < p - 2$ .*

Let us recall that Diamantopoulos [8] had proved before that the Hilbert operator is bounded on  $A^p$  for  $p > 2$ , but not on  $A^2$ . The situation on  $A^2$  is even worse. Dostanić, Jevtić, and Vukotić [10] proved that the Hilbert operator is not well defined on  $A^2$ . Indeed, they considered the function  $f$  defined by

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{1}{\log(n+1)} z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{11}$$

which belongs to  $A^2$ . However, the series defining  $\mathcal{H}f(0)$  is  $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{1}{(n+1)\log(n+1)} = \infty$  and the integral defining  $\mathcal{I}f(0)$  is  $\int_0^1 f(t) dt = \infty$ . Hence neither  $\mathcal{H}$  nor  $\mathcal{I}$  are defined on  $A^2$ .

This result can be extended. We can assert that  $\mathcal{H}$  is not well defined on  $A_{p-2}^p$  for any  $p > 1$ . Indeed, let  $f$  be the function defined in (11). Notice that the sequence

$\{\frac{1}{(n+1)\log(n+1)}\}$  is decreasing and that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(\log(n+1))^p} < \infty$ . Then (see Proposition 1 below) it follows that  $f \in A_{p-2}^p$ , and we have already seen that  $\mathcal{H}f$  and  $\mathcal{I}f$  are not defined. Since  $\alpha \geq p-2 \Rightarrow A_{p-2}^p \subset A_{\alpha}^p$ , it follows that the Hilbert operator  $\mathcal{H}$  is not defined on  $A_{\alpha}^p$  if  $\alpha \geq p-2$ .

In this section we shall obtain extensions of the mentioned results of Jevtić and Karapetrović considering the generalized Hilbert operators  $\mathcal{H}_{\mu}$ .

**Theorem 3** *Suppose that  $\max(-1, p-2) < \alpha < 2p-2$  and let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ . If  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure then the operators  $\mathcal{H}_{\mu}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_{\mu}$  are well defined on  $\mathcal{D}_{\alpha}^p$ . Furthermore,  $\mathcal{I}_{\mu}f = \mathcal{H}_{\mu}f$ , for all  $f \in \mathcal{D}_{\alpha}^p$ .*

When dealing with Bergman spaces Theorem 3 reduces to the following.

**Corollary 1** *Suppose that  $p > 1$  and  $-1 < \alpha < p-2$ , and let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ . If  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure then the operators  $\mathcal{H}_{\mu}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_{\mu}$  are well defined on  $A_{\alpha}^p$ . Furthermore,  $\mathcal{I}_{\mu}f = \mathcal{H}_{\mu}f$ , for all  $f \in A_{\alpha}^p$ .*

**Proof of Theorem 3** Suppose that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and take  $f \in \mathcal{D}_{\alpha}^p$ . Set  $\beta = \frac{2+\alpha}{p} - 1$ . Observe that  $0 < \beta < 1$ . Using [29, Theorem 4.14], we see that  $|f'(z)| \lesssim \frac{1}{(1-|z|)^{(2+\alpha)/p}}$  and, hence,  $|f(z)| \lesssim \frac{1}{(1-|z|)^{\beta}}$ . Then it follows that

$$\int_{[0,1)} |f(t)| d\mu(t) \lesssim \int_{[0,1)} \frac{d\mu(t)}{(1-t)^{\beta}}.$$

Integrating by parts, using that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure, and that  $0 < \beta < 1$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,1)} \frac{d\mu(t)}{(1-t)^{\beta}} &= \mu([0, 1)) - \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{\mu([t, 1))}{(1-t)^{\beta}} + \beta \int_0^1 \frac{\mu([t, 1))}{(1-t)^{\beta+1}} dt \\ &= \mu([0, 1)) + \beta \int_0^1 \frac{\mu([t, 1))}{(1-t)^{\beta+1}} dt \\ &\lesssim \mu([0, 1)) + \int_0^1 \frac{1}{(1-t)^{\beta}} dt \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we obtain that

$$\int_{[0,1)} |f(t)| d\mu(t) < \infty. \tag{12}$$

Clearly, this implies that the integral

$$\int_{[0,1)} \frac{f(t) d\mu(t)}{1-tz} \text{ converges absolutely and uniformly on compact subsets of } \mathbb{D}. \tag{13}$$

This gives that  $\mathcal{I}_\mu f$  is a well defined analytic function in  $\mathbb{D}$  and that

$$\mathcal{I}_\mu f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \left( \int_{[0,1)} t^n f(t) d\mu(t) \right) z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}. \tag{14}$$

Using [19, Theorem 2. 1] (see also [20, Theorem 2. 1]) we see that for these values of  $p$  and  $\alpha$  we have that if  $f \in A_\alpha^p$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$ , then  $\sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{|a_k|}{k+1} < \infty$ . Now, since  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure we have that  $|\mu_n| \lesssim \frac{1}{n+1}$  ([5, Proposition 1]). Then it follows that

$$\sum_{k=0}^\infty |\mu_{n+k} a_k| \lesssim \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{|a_k|}{k+n+1} \lesssim \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{|a_k|}{k+1}, \quad \text{for all } n.$$

Clearly, this implies that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu f$  is a well defined analytic function in  $\mathbb{D}$  and that  $\int_{[0,1)} t^n f(t) d\mu(t) = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \mu_{n+k} a_k$  for all  $n$ . This and (13) give that  $\mathcal{I}_\mu f = \mathcal{H}_\mu f$ . □

Our next result is an extension of Corollary G.

**Theorem 4** *Suppose that  $-1 < \alpha < p - 2$  and let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ .*

*The operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is well defined on  $A_\alpha^p$  and it is a bounded operator from  $A_\alpha^p$  to itself if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure.*

A number of results will be needed to prove this theorem. We start with a characterization of the functions  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$  whose sequence of Taylor coefficients is decreasing which belong to  $A_\alpha^p$ .

**Proposition 1** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{H}ol(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$  ( $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ). Suppose that  $1 < p < \infty$ ,  $\alpha > -1$ , and that the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is a decreasing sequence of non-negative real numbers. Then*

$$f \in A_\alpha^p \Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-3-\alpha} a_n^p < \infty.$$

Furthermore,  $\|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p \asymp |a_0|^p + \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-3-\alpha} a_n^p < \infty$ .

This result can be proved with arguments similar to those used in the proofs of [15, Theorem 3.10] and [23, Theorem 3. 1] where the analogous results for the Besov spaces  $B^p = \mathcal{D}_{p-2}^p$  ( $p > 1$ ) and for the spaces  $\mathcal{D}_{p-1}^p$  ( $p > 1$ ) were proved. The case  $\alpha = 0$  is proved in [3, Proposition 2. 4]. Consequently, we omit the details.

The following lemma is a generalization of [13, Lemma 3 (ii)].

**Lemma 1** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$  which is a Carleson measure. Assume that  $0 < p < \infty$  and  $\alpha > -1$ . Then there exists a positive constant*

$C = C(p, \alpha, \mu)$  such that for any  $f \in A_\alpha^p$

$$\int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} d\mu(r) \leq C \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p.$$

Of course,  $M_\infty(r, f) = \sup_{|z|=r} |f(z)|$ .

**Proof** Take  $f \in A_\alpha^p$  and set

$$\begin{aligned} g(r) &= M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1}, \\ F(r) &= \mu([0, r)) - \mu([0, 1)) = -\mu([r, 1)), \quad 0 < r < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating by parts, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} d\mu(r) &= \int_{[0,1)} g(r) d\mu(r) \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} g(r)F(r) - g(0)F(0) - \int_0^1 g'(r)F(r) dr \\ &= |f(0)|^p \mu([0, 1)) - \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} \mu([r, 1)) \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 g'(r) \mu([r, 1)) dr. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Since  $f \in A_\alpha^p$  we have that  $M_\infty^p(r, f) = o((1-r)^{-2-\alpha})$ , as  $r \rightarrow 1$  (see, e.g., [18, p. 54]). This and the fact that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure imply that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} \mu([r, 1)) = 0. \tag{16}$$

Using again that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and integrating by parts we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 g'(r) \mu([r, 1)) dr &\lesssim \int_0^1 g'(r)(1-r) dr \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} g(r)(1-r) - g(0) + \int_0^1 g(r) dr \\ &\leq \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+2} + \int_0^1 M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} dr \\ &= \int_0^1 M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha+1} dr. \end{aligned}$$

Then, using [13, Lemma 3. (ii)], it follows that

$$\int_0^1 g'(r) \mu([r, 1)) dr \lesssim \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p.$$

Using this and (16) in (15) readily yields  $\int_{[0,1]} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1 - r)^{\alpha+1} d\mu(r) \lesssim \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p$ . □

We shall also need the following characterization of the dual of the spaces  $A_\beta^q$  ( $q > 1$ ). It is a special case of [21, Theorem 2. 1].

**Lemma 2** *If  $1 < q < \infty$  and  $\beta > -1$ , then the dual of  $A_\beta^q$  can be identified with  $A_\alpha^p$  where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and  $\alpha$  is any number with  $\alpha > -1$ , under the pairing*

$$\langle h, f \rangle_{A_{q,\beta,\alpha}} = \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z)\overline{f(z)}(1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{\beta+\alpha}{q}+\frac{\alpha}{p}} dA(z), \quad h \in A_\beta^q, \quad f \in A_\alpha^p. \tag{17}$$

Finally, we recall the following result from [13, (5. 2), p. 242] which is a version of the classical Hardy’s inequality [17, pp. 244–245].

**Lemma 3** *Suppose that  $k > 0$ ,  $q > 1$ , and  $h$  is a non-negative function defined in  $(0, 1)$ , then*

$$\int_0^1 \left( \int_{1-r}^1 h(t) dt \right)^q (1 - r)^{k-1} dr \leq \left( \frac{q}{k} \right)^q \int_0^1 (h(1 - r))^q (1 - r)^{q+k-1} dr.$$

**Proof of Theorem 4** Suppose first that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $A_\alpha^p$  into itself. For  $0 < b < 1$ , set

$$f_b(z) = \frac{(1 - b^2)^{1-\frac{\alpha}{p}}}{(1 - bz)^{\frac{2}{p}+1}}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

Recall that  $p - \alpha > 2$ . Then using [29, Lemma 3. 10] with  $t = \alpha$  and  $c = p - \alpha$ , we obtain

$$\|f_b\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p = (1 - b^2)^{p-\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha}{|1 - bz|^{2+p}} dA(z) \asymp 1.$$

Since  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is bounded on  $A_\alpha^p$ , this implies

$$1 \gtrsim \|\mathcal{H}_\mu(f_b)\|_{A_\alpha^p}. \tag{18}$$

We also have

$$f_b(z) = \sum_{k=0}^\infty a_{k,b} z^k, \quad (z \in \mathbb{D}), \quad \text{with } a_{k,b} \asymp (1 - b^2)^{1-\frac{\alpha}{p}} k^{\frac{2}{p}} b^k.$$

Since the  $a_{k,b}$ ’s are positive, it is clear that the sequence  $\{\sum_{k=0}^\infty \mu_{n+k} a_{k,b}\}_{n=0}^\infty$  of the Taylor coefficients of  $\mathcal{H}_\mu(f_b)$  is a decreasing sequence of non-negative real numbers.

Using this, Proposition 1, (18), and the definition of the  $a_{k,b}$ 's, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &\gtrsim \|\mathcal{H}_\mu(fb)\|_{A_\alpha^p}^p \gtrsim \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty \mu_{n+k} a_{k,b} \right)^p \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty a_{k,b} \int_{[0,1)} t^{n+k} d\mu(t) \right)^p \\
 &\gtrsim (1-b^2)^{p-\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty k^{\frac{2}{p}} b^k \int_{[b,1)} t^{n+k} d\mu(t) \right)^p \\
 &\geq (1-b^2)^{p-\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty k^{\frac{2}{p}} b^{n+2k} \mu([b, 1)) \right)^p \\
 &= (1-b^2)^{p-\alpha} \mu([b, 1))^p \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} b^{np} \left( \sum_{k=1}^\infty k^{\frac{2}{p}} b^{2k} \right)^p \\
 &\asymp (1-b^2)^{p-\alpha} \mu([b, 1))^p \frac{1}{(1-b^2)^{2+p}} \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{p-\alpha-3} b^{np} \\
 &\asymp (1-b^2)^{p-\alpha} \mu([b, 1))^p \frac{1}{(1-b^2)^{2+p}} \cdot \frac{1}{(1-b^2)^{p-\alpha-2}} \\
 &\asymp \mu([b, 1))^p \frac{1}{(1-b)^p}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then it follows that

$$\mu([b, 1)) = O(1-b), \quad \text{as } b \rightarrow 1,$$

and, hence,  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure.

We turn to prove the other implication. So, suppose that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and take  $f \in A_\alpha^p$ . Let  $q$  be defined by the relation  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and take  $\beta = \frac{-\alpha q}{p} = \frac{-\alpha}{p-1}$ . Observe that  $\beta > -1$  and that with this election of  $\beta$  the weight in the pairing (17) is identically equal to 1. We have to show that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu f \in A_\alpha^p$  which is equal to  $(A_\beta^q)^*$  under the pairing  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{q,\beta,\alpha}$ . So take  $h \in A_\beta^q$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle h, \mathcal{H}_\mu f \rangle_{q,\beta,\alpha} &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{\mathcal{H}_\mu f(z)} dA(z) \\
 &= \int_{[0,1)} \overline{f(t)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{h(z)}{1-t\bar{z}} dA(z) \right) d\mu(t) \\
 &= \int_{[0,1)} \overline{f(t)} \left( \int_0^1 \frac{r}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{h(re^{i\theta})}{1-tre^{-i\theta}} d\theta dr \right) d\mu(t) \\
 &= \int_{[0,1)} \overline{f(t)} \left( \int_0^1 \left( \frac{r}{\pi i} \int_{|\xi|=1} \frac{h(r\xi)}{\xi-tr} d\xi \right) dr \right) d\mu(t) \\
 &= 2 \int_{[0,1)} \overline{f(t)} \left( \int_0^1 rh(r^2t) dr \right) d\mu(t).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$|\langle h, \mathcal{H}_\mu f \rangle_{q,\beta,\alpha}| \leq 2 \int_0^1 |f(t)|G(t) d\mu(t),$$

where  $G(t) = \int_0^1 r|h(r^2t)| dr$ . Using Hölder’s inequality we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,1]} f(t)G(t) d\mu(t) &= \int_{[0,1]} |f(t)|(1-t)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} G(t)(1-t)^{-\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} d\mu(t) \\ &\leq \left( \int_{[0,1]} |f(t)|^p (1-t)^{\alpha+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/p} \cdot \left( \int_{[0,1]} G(t)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/q}. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1 implies that

$$\left( \int_{[0,1]} |f(t)|^p (1-t)^{\alpha+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/p} \lesssim \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}.$$

Next we will show that

$$\int_{[0,1]} G(t)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} d\mu(t) \lesssim \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}^q. \tag{19}$$

This will give that

$$|\langle h, \mathcal{H}_\mu f \rangle_{q,\beta,\alpha}| \lesssim \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p} \cdot \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}^q.$$

By the duality theorem, this implies that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu f \in A_\alpha^p$ .

Let us prove (19). Observe first that if  $0 < t < 1/2$  then  $|h(r^2t)| \leq M_\infty(\frac{1}{2}, h)$  for each  $r \in (0, 1)$ , thus

$$G(t) = \int_0^1 |h(r^2t)|r dr \leq M_\infty \left( \frac{1}{2}, h \right), \quad 0 < t < 1/2.$$

Clearly, this implies

$$\int_{[0,1/2]} G(t)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} d\mu(t) \lesssim M_\infty^q \left( \frac{1}{2}, h \right) \lesssim \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}^q. \tag{20}$$

Notice that  $-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p} = \frac{p-2-\alpha}{p-1} - 1 > -1$ . Making the change of variables  $r^2t = s$ , we obtain  $\int_0^1 r|h(r^2t)| dr = \frac{1}{2t} \int_0^t |h(s)| ds$  and, hence,

$$\int_{[1/2,1]} G(t)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} d\mu(t)$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{[1/2,1)} \left( \int_0^1 |h(r^2t)|r \, dr \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \, d\mu(t) \\
 &= \int_{[1/2,1)} \frac{1}{(2t)^q} \left( \int_0^t |h(s)| \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \, d\mu(t) \\
 &\leq \int_{[1/2,1)} \left( \int_0^t M_\infty(s, h) \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \, d\mu(t) \\
 &\leq \int_{[0,1)} \left( \int_{1-t}^1 M_\infty(1-s, h) \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \, d\mu(t) \tag{21}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let us call  $H(t) = \left( \int_{1-t}^1 M_\infty(1-s, h) \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}}$  for  $0 \leq t < 1$ . Integrating by parts we obtain the following

$$\int_{[0,1)} H(t) \, d\mu(t) = H(0)\mu([0, 1)) - \lim_{t \rightarrow 1^-} H(t)\mu([t, 1)) + \int_0^1 \mu([t, 1))H'(t) \, dt. \tag{22}$$

The first term is equal to 0. Using the fact that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(t)\mu([t, 1)) &\lesssim (1-t)H(t) \\
 &= \left( \int_{1-t}^1 M_\infty(1-s, h) \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{1-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \\
 &= \left( \int_0^t M_\infty(s, h) \, ds \right)^q (1-t)^{1-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $h \in A_\beta^q$  we have  $M_\infty(t, h) = o\left( (1-t)^{-\frac{\beta+2}{q}} \right)$ , as  $t \rightarrow 1$ . Then, bearing in mind that  $\frac{\beta+2}{q} > 1$ , it follows that

$$H(t)\mu([t, 1)) = o\left( (1-t)^{-\beta-2+q} \cdot (1-t)^{1-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} \right) = o(1), \text{ as } t \rightarrow 1. \tag{23}$$

Actually, we have also proved that

$$(1-t)H(t) = o(1), \text{ as } t \rightarrow 1. \tag{24}$$

Using that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure, integrating by parts, and using the definition of  $H$  and (24), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^1 \mu([t, 1))H'(t) \, dt &\lesssim \int_0^1 (1-t)H'(t) \, dt \\
 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} (1-t)H(t) - H(0) + \int_0^1 H(t) \, dt
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^1 \left( \int_{1-t}^1 M_\infty(1-s, h) ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} dt. \tag{25}$$

Now, using Lemma 3 and [13, Lemma 3], we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 \left( \int_{1-t}^1 M_\infty(1-s, h) ds \right)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} dt \\ & \lesssim \int_0^1 M_\infty^q(t, h)(1-t)^{\alpha+1} dt \lesssim \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}^q. \end{aligned}$$

Using this, (25), (23), (22), and (21), it follows that

$$\int_{[1/2, 1)} G(t)^q (1-t)^{-\frac{q(\alpha+1)}{p}} d\mu(t) \lesssim \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}^q.$$

This and (20) yield (19). □

Our final aim in this article is to find the analogue of Theorem 4 for Dirichlet spaces. In other words, we wish give an answer to the following question.

**Question 2** *If  $\max(-1, p - 2) < \alpha < 2p - 2$ , is it true that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  into itself if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure?*

Since  $p - 1 < \alpha < 2p - 2$  implies that  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p = A_{\alpha-p}^p$ , Theorem 4 answers the question affirmatively for these values of  $p$  and  $\alpha$ . It remains to consider the case  $\max(-1, p - 2) < \alpha \leq p - 1$ . We shall prove the following result which gives a positive answer to Question 2 in the case  $p > 1$ .

**Theorem 5** *Suppose that  $p > 1$  and  $p - 2 < \alpha \leq p - 1$ , and let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$ .*

*The operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is well defined on  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  and it is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  into itself if and only if  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure.*

The following two lemmas will be needed in the proof of Theorem 5. The first one follows trivially from Proposition 1.

**Lemma 4** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{Hol}(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$  ( $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ). Suppose that  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $p - 2 < \alpha \leq p - 1$ , and that the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is a decreasing sequence of non-negative real numbers. Then*

$$f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p \Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=0}^\infty (n+1)^{2p-\alpha-3} a_n^p < \infty.$$

The following lemma is a generalization of [13, Lemma 4].

**Lemma 5** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$  which is a Carleson measure. Assume that  $0 < p < \infty$  and  $\alpha > -1$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $C = C(p, \alpha, \mu)$  such that for any  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$*

$$\int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} d\mu(r) \leq C \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p}^p.$$

**Proof** We argue as in the proof of Lemma 1. Take  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  and set

$$\begin{aligned} g(r) &= M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1}, \\ F(r) &= \mu([0, r)) - \mu([0, 1)) = -\mu([r, 1)), \quad 0 < r < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating by parts, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} d\mu(r) &= \int_{[0,1)} g(r) d\mu(r) \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} g(r)F(r) - g(0)F(0) - \int_0^1 g'(r)F(r) dr \\ &= |f(0)|^p \mu([0, 1)) - \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} \mu([r, 1)) \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 g'(r) \mu([r, 1)) dr. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Since  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  we have that  $M_\infty^p(r, f) = o((1-r)^{-2-\alpha})$ , as  $r \rightarrow 1$ . Hence,  $M_\infty^p(r, f) = o((1-r)^{-2-\alpha+p})$ , as  $r \rightarrow 1$ . This and the fact that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure imply that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} \mu([r, 1)) = 0. \tag{27}$$

Using again that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and integrating by parts we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 g'(r) \mu([r, 1)) dr &\lesssim \int_0^1 g'(r)(1-r) dr \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} g(r)(1-r) - g(0) + \int_0^1 g(r) dr \\ &\leq \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+2} \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} dr \\ &= \int_0^1 M_\infty^p(r, f)(1-r)^{\alpha-p+1} dr. \end{aligned}$$

Then, using [13, Lemma 3], it follows that

$$\int_0^1 g'(r)\mu([r, 1)) dr \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p}^p.$$

Using this and (27) in (26) readily yields  $\int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(r, f)(1 - r)^{\alpha-p+1} d\mu(r) \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p}^p$ . □

**Proof of Theorem 5** Suppose first that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  into itself. For  $1/2 < b < 1$  we set

$$f_b(z) = \frac{(1 - b^2)^{1-\frac{\alpha}{p}}}{(1 - bz)^{2/p}}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

We have  $\|f_b\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p} \asymp 1$ . Then arguing as in the proof of the correspondent implication in Theorem 4 we obtain that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure. We omit the details.

To prove the other implication, suppose that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and take  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$ . Since  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{I}_\mu$  coincide on  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$ , we have to prove that  $\mathcal{I}_\mu f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^p$  and that  $\|\mathcal{I}_\mu f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p} \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p}$  or, equivalently, that  $(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)' \in A_\alpha^p$  and

$$\|(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'\|_{A_\alpha^p} \lesssim \|f\|_{A_\alpha^p}. \tag{28}$$

We shall distinguish two cases.

**First case:  $\alpha < p - 1$ .** Let  $q$  be defined by the relation  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and take  $\beta = \frac{-\alpha q}{p}$ . In view of Lemma 2, (28) is equivalent to

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p} \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}, \quad h \in A_\beta^q. \tag{29}$$

So, take  $h \in A_\beta^q$ . Just as in the proof of Theorem 1, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) = \int_{[0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} h(t) d\mu(t). \tag{30}$$

Set  $s = -1 + \frac{\alpha+1}{p}$ . Observe that  $ps = \alpha - p + 1$  and  $-qs = \beta + 1$ . Then, using (30), Hölder’s inequality, Lemma 1, and Lemma 5, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| &\leq \int_{[0,1)} |f(t)|(1 - t)^s |h(t)|(1 - t)^{-s} d\mu(t) \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(t)|^p (1 - t)^{\alpha-p+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/p} \left( \int_{[0,1)} |h(t)|^q (1 - t)^{\beta+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} M_\infty^p(t, f)(1 - t)^{\alpha-p+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/p} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \times \left( \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^q(t, h)(1-t)^{\beta+1} d\mu(t) \right)^{1/q} \\ & \leq \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^p} \|h\|_{A_\beta^q}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (29) holds.

**Second case:  $\alpha = p - 1$ .** We let again  $q$  be defined by the relation  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and take  $\beta = q - 1$ . Using Lemma 2 and arguing as in the preceding case, we have to show that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_{p-1}^p} \|h\|_{A_{q-1}^q}, \quad h \in A_{q-1}^q. \tag{31}$$

We have

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) = \int_{[0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)h(z)}{(1 - t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) d\mu(t). \tag{32}$$

Now,  $\int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{h(z)}{(1-t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) = h(t)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|z|^2 h(z)}{(1-t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) &= \int_0^1 \frac{r^3}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{h(re^{i\theta}) d\theta}{(1 - tre^{-i\theta})^2} dr \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{2r^3}{2\pi i} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{i\theta} h(re^{i\theta}) i e^{i\theta} d\theta}{(e^{i\theta} - tr)^2} dr = \int_0^1 \frac{2r^3}{2\pi i} \int_{|z|=1} \frac{zh(rz)}{(z - tr)^2} dz dr \\ &= \int_0^1 2r^3 [h(r^2t) + r^2th'(r^2t)] dr. \end{aligned}$$

Then it is clear that  $\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1-|z|^2)h(z)}{(1-t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) \right| \lesssim M_\infty(t, h)$ . Using this, (32), Hölder’s inequality, Lemma 1, and Lemma 5, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty(t, f) M_\infty(t, h) d\mu(t) \\ & \leq \left( \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^p(t, f) d\mu(t) \right)^{1/p} \left( \int_{[0,1)} M_\infty^q(t, h) d\mu(t) \right)^{1/q} \\ & \leq \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_{p-1}^p} \|h\|_{A_{q-1}^q}. \end{aligned}$$

This is (31). □

We shall close the article with some comments about the case  $p = 1$  in Question 2. We have the following result.

**Theorem 6** *Let  $\mu$  be a finite positive Borel measure on  $[0, 1)$  and  $-1 < \alpha < 0$ . If  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure then the operator  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator form  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1$  to itself.*

**Proof** Using [29, Theorem 5.15, p. 113], we see that  $A_\alpha^1$  can be identified as the dual of the little Bloch space under the pairing

$$\langle h, g \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z) \overline{g(z)} dA(z), \quad h \in \mathcal{B}_0, \quad g \in A_\alpha^1. \tag{33}$$

Suppose that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure. Using this duality relation and the fact that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu = \mathcal{I}_\mu$  on  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1$ , showing that  $\mathcal{H}_\mu$  is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1$  to itself is equivalent to showing that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}} \cdot \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1}, \quad h \in \mathcal{B}_0, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^1. \tag{34}$$

Let us prove (34). Take  $h \in \mathcal{B}_0$  and  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^1$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \\ &= \int_{[0,1)} t \overline{f(t)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z)}{(1 - t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) d\mu(t). \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Using [29, Lemma 5.14, pp. 113-114] we have that the operator  $T$  defined by

$$T\phi(\xi) = (1 - |\xi|^2)^{-\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha \phi(z)}{(1 - \xi\bar{z})^2} dA(z)$$

is a bounded operator from  $\mathcal{B}$  into  $L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ . Then it follows that

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z)}{(1 - t\bar{z})^2} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}} (1 - t^2)^\alpha, \quad t \in [0, 1).$$

Using this in (35), we obtain

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha h(z) \overline{(\mathcal{I}_\mu f)'(z)} dA(z) \right| \lesssim \|h\|_{\mathcal{B}} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - t)^\alpha |f(t)| d\mu(t). \tag{36}$$

The fact that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure readily implies that the measure  $\nu$  defined by  $d\nu(t) = (1 - t)^\alpha d\mu(t)$  is a  $(1 - \alpha)$ -Carleson measure. Using Theorem 1 of [28] we see that then  $\nu$  is a Carleson measure for  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1$ , that is,

$$\int_{[0,1)} (1 - t)^\alpha |g(t)| d\mu(t) \lesssim \|g\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1}, \quad g \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha^1.$$

Using this in (36), (34) follows. □

We do not know whether the converse of Theorem 6 is true. This is due to the fact that we do not know whether Lemma 4 remains true for  $p = 1$ . The inequality

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| (n+1)^{-(1+\alpha)} \lesssim \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1}. \quad (37)$$

is certainly true with no assumption on the sequence  $\{a_n\}$ . Indeed, by Hardy's inequality [11, p. 48],  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| r^{n-1} \lesssim \int_0^{2\pi} |f'(re^{i\theta})| d\theta$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_\alpha^1} &\asymp \int_0^1 (1-r)^\alpha \int_0^{2\pi} |f'(re^{i\theta})| d\theta dr \\ &\gtrsim \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \int_0^1 (1-r)^\alpha r^{n-1} dr = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| B(\alpha+1, n), \end{aligned}$$

where  $B(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the Beta function. Stirling's formula gives  $B(\alpha+1, n) \asymp n^{-(\alpha+1)}$  and then (37) follows.

However, the proof of Theorem D in [23] does not seem to work to prove the opposite inequality when  $\{a_n\}$  is decreasing.

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