

## WEIGHTED INEQUALITIES FOR CONVOLUTIONS

KENNETH F. ANDERSEN

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**ABSTRACT.** For certain convolution operators  $T$  on  $R^+$  or  $R^n$ , sufficient conditions are given which ensure that  $T$  is bounded between weighted Lebesgue spaces. The class of operators considered includes many of classical interest; in particular, new inequalities are obtained for the Laplace transform, the Poisson integral on  $R^n \times R^+$ , and Goldberg's transform.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In a recent paper Bloom [2] obtained weighted inequalities for the Laplace transform  $\mathcal{L}$  using known weighted inequalities for the Hardy operator. The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, we show that these weighted Hardy inequalities may be used in a different and, we think, more elementary way to obtain weighted inequalities for a class of operators on  $R^+ = (0, \infty)$ . Our results will be seen to include and sharpen Bloom's results for  $\mathcal{L}$ . Secondly, we show that our approach admits a natural extension to a class of operators on  $R^n$ ; applications will be illustrated by deriving new inequalities for Goldberg's transform on  $R$  and the Poisson integral on the half space  $R^{n+} = R^n \times R^+$ .

If  $X$  denotes  $R^+$  or  $R^n$  and  $\mu$  is a positive Borel measure on  $X$ , denote by  $L^p(X, \mu)$  the weighted Lebesgue space of measurable functions  $f$  on  $X$  for which  $\|f\|_{p, \mu} < \infty$  where

$$\|f\|_{p, \mu} = \begin{cases} (\int_X |f|^p d\mu)^{1/p} & \text{if } 1 \leq p < \infty, \\ \mu \text{ ess. sup}_{y \in X} |f(y)| & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases}$$

If  $f(y)$  is expressed as a formula in  $y$  it will sometimes be convenient to slightly abuse the notation  $\|f\|_{p, \mu}$  by writing instead  $\|f(y)\|_{p, \mu}$ .

The operators considered here are convolutions with a suitable kernel  $k$  and are given by

$$(1.1) \quad Tf(x) = \begin{cases} \int_{R^+} k(x/y)f(y) dy/y & \text{if } X = R^+, \\ \int_{R^n} k(|x-y|)f(y) dy & \text{if } X = R^n. \end{cases}$$

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Given such  $T$  and exponents  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ , sufficient conditions to be satisfied by positive Borel measures  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are given which ensure that

$$(1.2) \quad \|Tf\|_{q, \mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

for a constant  $C$  independent of  $f \in L^p(X, \nu)$ . Since  $\nu = \nu_a + \nu_s$  where  $\nu_a$  is absolutely continuous and  $\nu_s$  is singular with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $X$ , there is no loss of generality in taking  $\nu = \nu_a$  since the left side of (1.2) is unchanged if  $f$  is redefined to be zero on the support of  $\nu_s$ . For convenience we set  $v = d\nu_a/dx$  and  $d\sigma/dx = v^{-1/(p-1)}$ . As usual  $p'$  denotes the conjugate exponent of  $p$  given by  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$  and if  $q < p$  the exponent  $r$  is defined by  $1/r = 1/q - 1/p$ . We define a function  $\omega(t) = \omega(X; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$  for  $t > 0$  as follows,  $\chi_E$  denoting the characteristic function of  $E$ .

If  $X = R^+$ ,

$$\omega(t) = \begin{cases} \sup_{s>0} \|\chi_{(0, st]}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left( \int_0^\infty [\|\chi_{(0, st]}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma}^{p'/q'}]^r s^{-p'} d\sigma(s) \right)^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p. \end{cases}$$

If  $X = R^n$ ,  $Q$  denotes a cube in  $R^n$  with centre  $x_Q$  and sides parallel to the coordinate axis of length  $\ell(Q)$ . If  $j = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$  for integers  $j_1, \dots, j_n$ , let  $Q_j$  denote the translate of  $Q$  by  $\ell(Q)j$  so that  $x_{Q_j} = x_Q + \ell(Q)j$  and  $\ell(Q_j) = \ell(Q)$ . Let  $Q^*$  denote the dilate of  $Q$  by the factor 3 so that  $x_{Q^*} = x_Q$  and  $\ell(Q^*) = 3\ell(Q)$ . Set  $Q_j^* = (Q_j)^*$ . Then

$$\omega(t) = \inf_{\{Q: \ell(Q)=t\}} \omega_Q$$

where

$$\omega_Q = \begin{cases} \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left( \sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p. \end{cases}$$

Throughout, we adopt the usual convention that products of the form  $0 \cdot \infty$  are taken to be zero and when  $p = 1$  or  $p = \infty$ , expressions involving  $\sigma$  are interpreted as appropriate limits; for example,  $\|y^{-1} \chi_{[s, \infty)}(y)\|_{p', \sigma}$  is taken to be  $\text{ess. sup}_{y \in [s, \infty)} [y v(y)]^{-1}$  when  $p = 1$ . Note that  $w(t)$  is nonnegative, nondecreasing on  $R^+$  and is continuous wherever it is finite. In particular,  $\omega(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \omega(t)$  exists as an extended real number.

If  $k(t)$  is a nonnegative, nonincreasing, right continuous function on  $R^+$ , set  $k(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} k(t)$  and denote by  $\Lambda_k$  the positive Borel measure on  $R^+$  generated by  $k$  defined by  $\Lambda_k(a, b) = k(a) - k(b)$ ; see [10, Chapter 11].

If  $k(t) = \chi_{(0, 1)}(t)$  the operator given by (1.1) with  $X = R^+$  is the 'dual' Hardy operator  $A_1 f(x) = \int_x^\infty f(y) dy/y$  for which  $\omega(1) < \infty$  is a known (see [8], [1], [3], [7]) necessary and sufficient condition for (1.2) to hold. Moreover, in this case the smallest constant  $C$  in (1.2) satisfies  $c_{1, p, q} \omega(1) \leq C \leq c_{2, p, q} \omega(1)$  for constants  $c_{1, p, q}$  and  $c_{2, p, q}$ . Our main result generalizes this as follows.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $k(t)$  be nonnegative, nonincreasing, and right continuous on  $R^+$ . Suppose  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$  and that  $\mu, \nu$  are positive Borel measures on  $X$*

with  $\omega(t) = \omega(X; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$  satisfying

$$(1.3) \quad K = \int_{R^+} \omega(t) d\Lambda_k(t) + k(\infty)\omega(\infty) < \infty.$$

Then there is a constant  $c_{X,p,q}$  such that (1.2) holds with  $C = c_{X,p,q}K$  for all  $f \in L^p(X, \nu)$ .

It should be noted that the integral in (1.3) is equivalent to the improper Riemann-Stieltjes integral  $\int_0^\infty \omega(t) d[-k(t)]$  whenever  $k$  and  $\omega$  have no common point of discontinuity; in particular, this is the case if  $k$  is continuous or if  $\omega(t) < \infty$  for all  $t$ .

With  $X = R^+$  and each of  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  of the form  $d\mu/dx = x^\alpha$ , inequalities of the form (1.2) for various choices of  $k$  have been given in Chapter 9 of [4], see especially Theorems 319, 341(2), 342(2), and 360. Although Theorem 1 generalizes many of these results, here we elaborate only the case  $k(t) = e^{-t}$  which leads by a change of variable to new inequalities for the Laplace transform  $\mathcal{L}$  since in that case  $\mathcal{L}f(x) = Tg(x)$  where  $g(y) = y^{-1}f(y^{-1})$ .

**Corollary 1.** *If  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ , and  $\mu, \nu$  are positive Borel measures on  $R^+$  with  $K < \infty$  where*

$$(1.4) \quad K = \begin{cases} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} \sup_{s>0} \|\chi_{(0,t/s]\|_{q,\mu} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma} dt & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \int_0^\infty e^{-t} (\int_0^\infty [\|\chi_{(0,t/s]\|_{q,\mu} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma}^{p'/q'}]^r d\sigma(s))^{1/r} dt & \text{if } q < p \end{cases}$$

then there is a constant  $c_{p,q}$  such that

$$(1.5) \quad \|\mathcal{L}f\|_{q,\mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p,\nu}$$

with  $C = c_{p,q}K$  for all  $f \in L^p(R^+, \nu)$ .

Bloom [2] proved two theorems, each giving a sufficient condition and a different necessary condition for (1.5) to hold with  $d\mu = udx, d\nu = vdx$ , and  $1 < p, q < \infty$ . In particular, his second theorem asserts that if  $B_\delta$  is defined by

$$B_\delta = \begin{cases} \sup_{s>0} (\mathcal{L}u(\delta s))^{1/q} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ (\int_0^\infty [(\mathcal{L}u(\delta s))^{1/q} \|\chi_{(0,s]\|_{p',\sigma}^{p'/q'}]^r d\sigma(s))^{1/r} & \text{if } q < p, \end{cases}$$

then  $B_1 < \infty$  is sufficient while  $B_q < \infty$  is necessary for (1.5) to hold. Since

$$\int_0^{t/s} u \leq e^{\delta t} \int_0^{t/s} e^{-\delta s x} u(x) dx \leq e^{\delta t} \mathcal{L}u(\delta s),$$

it follows immediately that  $K < \infty$  in (1.4) if  $B_\delta < \infty$  for some  $\delta < q$ . Thus Corollary 1 contains the sufficient condition and narrows the gap between the necessary and the sufficient conditions of Bloom's Theorem 2. Similarly, it is not difficult to show that Corollary 1 also contains the sufficient condition of his Theorem 1.

Among other applications, Theorem 1 may be used to obtain inequalities for the operators given by the Gauss-Weierstrass kernel  $W_y(x) = (4\pi y)^{-n/2} e^{-|x|^2/4y}$  and the Poisson kernel  $P_y(x) = \Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2})y[\pi(y^2 + |x|^2)]^{-(n+1)/2}$  where  $(x, y) \in R^{n+1}$ , for which inequalities of the form (1.2) have been widely studied. In particular, we have the following result for the Poisson operator.

**Corollary 2.** *If  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ ,  $y > 0$ , and  $\mu, \nu$  are positive Borel measures on  $R^n$  with  $\omega(t) = \omega(R^n; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$  satisfying*

$$(1.6) \quad \int_1^\infty \frac{\omega(t)}{t^{n+2}} dt < \infty,$$

then

$$(1.7) \quad \left\| \int_{R^n} P_y(x-z)f(z) dz \right\|_{q, \mu} \leq C_y \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with

$$(1.8) \quad C_y = \frac{3^{n/p}(n+1)\Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2})}{\pi^{(n+1)/2}} y \int_0^\infty \frac{t\omega(t)}{(y^2+t^2)^{(n+3)/2}} dt.$$

A simple calculation shows that for  $1 < p = q < \infty$  and  $d\mu/dx = d\nu/dx = (1+|x|)^\alpha$ ,

$$\omega(t) \leq c_{n,p,\alpha} \begin{cases} t^n(1+t)^{\max(0, -n/p' + \alpha/p)}, & \alpha \geq 0, \\ t^n(1+t)^{\max(0, -n/p - \alpha/p)}, & \alpha < 0, \end{cases}$$

and hence (1.7) holds in this case if  $-n-p < \alpha < n(p-1)+p$ . Moreover, this range of  $\alpha$  is best possible for (1.7); the necessity of  $-n-p < \alpha$  follows by taking  $f(z) = |z|/\log|z|$  for large  $|z|$  and  $f(z) = 0$  otherwise. A duality argument shows the necessity of  $\alpha < n(p-1)+p$ .

Note that if  $1 \leq p \leq q \leq \infty$  and there is a constant  $K$  with

$$(1.9) \quad \|\chi_Q\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_Q\|_{p', \sigma} \leq K[\ell(Q)]^n$$

for all cubes  $Q$ , then  $\omega(t) \leq K(3t)^n$  so Corollary 2 shows that (1.7) holds with constant  $C$  independent of  $y$ ; the case  $n = 1 \leq p = q < \infty$  was obtained by Muckenhoupt [9, Theorem 2].

The condition (1.9) with  $n = 1 < p = q < \infty$  and  $d\mu/dx = d\nu/dx = v$  is the well-known  $A_p$  condition which characterizes [6] the weight functions  $v$  for which the Hilbert transform

$$Hf(x) = \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{f(t)}{x-t} dt, \quad x \in R,$$

satisfies

$$(1.10) \quad \int_R |Hf|^p v \leq C \int_R |f|^p v$$

for a constant  $C$  independent of  $f$ . Combining this with Corollary 2 we prove, in section 3, the following weighted inequalities for the Goldberg transform [5] given by

$$Gf(x) = \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{\sin(x-t)}{(x-t)^2} f(t) dt, \quad x \in R.$$

**Theorem 2.** *If  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $v = dv/dx$  is a weight function on  $R$  with  $\omega(t) = \omega(R; \nu, \nu; p, p; t)$  satisfying*

$$(1.11) \quad \frac{\omega(t)}{t} + \int_1^\infty \frac{\omega(s)}{s^3} ds \leq K$$

for some constant  $K$  and all  $0 < t < 1$ , then there is a constant  $C$  depending on  $p$  and  $K$  such that

$$(1.12) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} |Gf|^p v \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f|^p v.$$

for all  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}, \nu)$ .

Theorem 1 is proved in section 2. Constants are denoted by  $c$  or  $C$ , with or without subscripts, but are not necessarily the same from line to line.

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

We prove the case  $X = \mathbb{R}^+$  first.

For  $t > 0$  let the Hardy operators  $A_t$  be given by

$$A_t f(x) = \int_{x/t}^{\infty} f(y) \frac{dy}{y}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^+.$$

As noted in the introduction,  $A_1$  satisfies

$$\|A_1 f\|_{q, \mu} \leq C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with  $C = c_{2,p,q} \omega(\mathbb{R}^+; \mu, \nu; q, p; 1)$  and hence a change of variable shows

$$(2.1) \quad \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} \leq c_{2,p,q} \omega(\mathbb{R}^+; \mu, \nu; q, p; t) \|f\|_{p, \nu}.$$

Suppose now that  $f \geq 0$  and let  $T_1$  be the operator associated with the kernel  $k_1(t) = k(t) - k(\infty)$ . Then  $k_1(\infty) = 0$  and hence Fubini's Theorem shows

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 f(x) &= \int_0^{\infty} f(y) \int_{(x/y, \infty)} d\Lambda_k(t) \frac{dy}{y} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} d\Lambda_k(t) \int_{x/t}^{\infty} f(y) \frac{dy}{y} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} A_t f(x) d\Lambda_k(t). \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski's inequality for integrals now yields

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \|T_1 f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} d\Lambda_k(t) \\ &\leq c_{2,p,q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \omega(t) d\Lambda_k(t) \right) \|f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

in view of (2.1).

On the other hand, Hölder's inequality shows

$$\begin{aligned} \|(T - T_1) f\|_{q, \mu} &= k(\infty) \|\chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}\|_{q, \mu} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} |f(y)| \frac{dy}{y} \\ &\leq k(\infty) \|\chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}\|_{q, \mu} \|y^{-1} \chi_{\mathbb{R}^+}(y)\|_{p', \sigma} \|f\|_{p, \nu} \\ &= k(\infty) c_{p,q} \omega(\infty) \|f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{p,q} = 1$  if  $p \leq q$  and  $c_{p,q} = (r/p')^{1/r}$  otherwise. This combined with (2.2) completes the proof for the case  $X = \mathbb{R}^+$ .

Turning to the case  $X = R^n$ , we first prove that for  $t > 0$  the operator

$$A_t f(x) = \int_{|x-y|<t} f(y) dy$$

satisfies

$$(2.3) \quad \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} \leq 3^{n/p} C \|f\|_{p, \nu}$$

with  $C = \omega(R^n; \mu, \nu; q, p; t)$ .

To prove (2.3), fix a cube  $Q$  with  $\ell(Q) = t$ . Then for fixed  $j$  and  $x \in Q_j$ , we have  $\{y : |x - y| < t\} \subset Q_j^*$  and therefore

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} |A_t f(x)| &\leq \int_{Q_j^*} |f(y)| dy \\ &\leq \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} \end{aligned}$$

by Hölder's inequality. The case  $q = \infty$  of (2.3) follows easily from (2.4) so we give the details only for  $q < \infty$ . Now, if  $q < \infty$ , then (2.4) shows

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \left( \sum_j \int_{Q_j} |A_t f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \left( \sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu}^q \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}^q \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q \right)^{1/q} \\ &\leq \begin{cases} \left( \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma} \right) \left( \sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q \right)^{1/q} & \text{if } p \leq q, \\ \left( \sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} \left( \sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } q < p < \infty, \\ \left( \sum_j [\|\chi_{Q_j}\|_{q, \mu} \|\chi_{Q_j^*}\|_{p', \sigma}]^r \right)^{1/r} \left( \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} \right) & \text{if } q < p = \infty \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where we used Hölder's inequality with exponents  $p/q$ ,  $(p/q)' = r/q$  on the sum in the cases  $q < p$ . We have  $(\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^q)^{1/q} \leq (\sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p)^{1/p}$  for  $p \leq q$ , and thus, in any case, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_t f\|_{q, \mu} &\leq \omega_Q \begin{cases} \left( \sum_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu}^p \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } p < \infty, \\ \sup_j \|\chi_{Q_j^*} f\|_{p, \nu} & \text{if } p = \infty \end{cases} \\ &= \omega_Q \begin{cases} \left( \int_{R^n} \sum_j \chi_{Q_j^*} |f|^p d\nu \right)^{1/p} & \text{if } p < \infty, \\ \|f\|_{p, \nu} & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\sum_j \chi_{Q_j^*}(y) \leq 3^n$  a.e., we obtain (2.3) upon taking the infimum over cubes  $Q$  with  $\ell(Q) = t$ .

Now suppose  $f \geq 0$  and let  $T_1$  be the operator associated with the kernel  $k_1(t) = k(t) - k(\infty)$ . Then Fubini's Theorem yields

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 f(x) &= \int_{R^n} f(y) \int_{(|x-y|, \infty)} d\Lambda_k(t) dy \\ &= \int_{R^+} A_t f(x) d\Lambda_k(t) \end{aligned}$$

and the remainder of the proof is analogous to that of the case  $X = R^+$  using (2.3) in place of (2.1);  $c_{R^n, p, q} = 3^{n/p}$  will suffice. The details are omitted.

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

For each integer  $j$ , let  $\chi_j$  and  $\chi_j^*$  denote the characteristic functions of  $I_j = (j-1, j]$  and  $I_j^* = (j-2, j+1]$  respectively. Then since

$$\left| \frac{\sin t}{t^2} - \frac{1}{t} \right| \leq c, \quad |t| \leq 2,$$

it follows that

$$\left| Gf(x) - \sum_j [H(f\chi_j^*)(x)]\chi_j(x) \right| \leq cT|f|(x)$$

where

$$Tf(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_R \frac{f(t)}{1+|x-t|^2} dt.$$

Now, let  $v_j(x)$  have period 6 and be given by

$$v_j(x) = \begin{cases} v(x) & \text{if } x \in I_j^*, \\ v(2j+2-x) & \text{if } x \in I_{j+3}^*. \end{cases}$$

Since (1.11) implies  $\omega(t)/t \leq 4^3K$  for  $t \leq 3$ , by considering separately those intervals  $Q$  with  $\ell(Q) \leq 3$  and those with  $\ell(Q) > 3$  it follows that there is a constant  $c$  independent of  $j$  such that (1.9) holds with  $n = 1$ ,  $p = q$ ,  $d\mu/dx = dv/dx = v_j$ , and  $K$  replaced by  $cK$ . Hence, (1.10) shows there is a constant  $C$  depending only on  $p$  and  $K$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_R \left| \sum_j [H(f\chi_j^*)(x)]\chi_j(x) \right|^p v(x) dx &= \sum_j \int_{I_j} |H(f\chi_j^*)(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ &\leq \sum_j \int_R |H(f\chi_j^*)(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ (3.1) \qquad \qquad \qquad &\leq C \sum_j \int_{I_j^*} |f(x)|^p v_j(x) dx \\ &\leq 3C \int_R |f(x)|^p v(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, Corollary 2 yields

$$(3.2) \qquad \int_R [T|f|(x)]^p v(x) dx \leq C \int_R |f(x)|^p v(x) dx$$

in view of (1.11).

Combining (3.1) and (3.2) yields (1.12) and completes the proof of Theorem 2.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, ALBERTA,  
CANADA T6G 2G1

*E-mail address:* `kanderse@vega.math.ualberta.ca`