

Traces for Besov spaces on fractal h -sets and dichotomy results

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Abstract

We study the existence of traces of Besov spaces on fractal h -sets Γ with the special focus laid on necessary assumptions implying this existence, or, in other words, present criteria for the non-existence of traces. In that sense our paper can be regarded as an extension of [Br4] and a continuation of the recent paper [Ca2]. Closely connected with the problem of existence of traces is the notion of *dichotomy* in function spaces: We can prove that – depending on the function space and the set Γ – there occurs an alternative: *either* the trace on Γ exists, *or* smooth functions compactly supported outside Γ are dense in the space. This notion was introduced by Triebel in [Tr7] for the special case of d -sets.

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1 Introduction

The paper is devoted to a detailed study of traces of regular distributions taken on fractal sets. Such questions are of particular interest in view of boundary value problems of elliptic operators, where the solutions belong to some appropriate Besov (or Sobolev) space. One standard method is to start with assertions about traces on hyperplanes and then to transfer these results to bounded domains with sufficiently smooth boundary afterwards. Further studies may concern compactness or regularity results, leading to the investigation of spectral properties. However, when it comes to irregular (or fractal) boundaries, one has to circumvent a lot of difficulties following that way, such that another method turned out to be more appropriate. This approach was proposed by Edmunds and Triebel in connection with smooth boundaries first in [ET1] and then extended to fractal d -sets in [ET3, ET2, Tr4]. Later the setting of d -sets was extended to (d, Ψ) -sets by Moura [Mo2] and finally to the more general h -sets by Bricchi [Br2].

The idea is rather simple to describe, but the details are much more complicated: at first one determines the trace spaces of certain Besov (or Sobolev) spaces as precisely as possible, studies (compact) embeddings of such spaces into appropriate target spaces together with their entropy and approximation numbers afterwards, and finally applies Carl's or Weyl's inequalities to link eigenvalues and entropy or approximation numbers. If one is in the lucky situation that, on one hand, one has atomic or wavelet decomposition results for the corresponding spaces, and, on the other hand, the irregularity of the fractal can be characterised by its local behaviour (within 'small' cubes or balls), then there is some chance to shift all the arguments to appropriate sequence spaces which are usually easier to handle. This is one reason for us to stick to fractal h -sets and Besov spaces at the moment. But still the problem is not so simple and little is known so far. Dealing with spaces on h -sets we refer to [CaL2, CaL1, KZ, Lo], and, probably closest to our approach here, [Tr6, Chapter 8]. There it turns out that one first needs a sound knowledge about the existence and quality of the corresponding trace spaces. Returning to the first results in that respect in [Br2], see also [Br3, Br4, Br1], we found that the approach can (and should) be extended for later applications. More precisely, for a positive continuous and non-decreasing function $h : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (a gauge function) with $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} h(r) = 0$, a non-empty compact set $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is called h -set if there exists a finite Radon measure μ in \mathbb{R}^n with $\text{supp } \mu = \Gamma$ and

$$\mu(B(\gamma, r)) \sim h(r), \quad r \in (0, 1], \quad \gamma \in \Gamma,$$

see also [Ro, Chapter 2] and [Ma, p. 60]. In the special case $h(r) = r^d$, $0 < d < n$, Γ is called d -set (in the sense of [Tr4, Def. 3.1], see also [JW, Ma] – be aware that this is different from [Fa]). Recall that some self-similar fractals are outstanding examples of d -sets; for instance, the usual (middle-third) Cantor set in \mathbb{R}^1 is a d -set for $d = \ln 2 / \ln 3$, and the Koch curve in

\mathbb{R}^2 is a d -set for $d = \ln 4 / \ln 3$.

The trace is defined by completion of pointwise traces of $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, assuming that for $0 < p < \infty$ we have in addition $\|\varphi|_{\Gamma}\|_{L_p(\Gamma)} \lesssim \|\varphi|_{B_{p,q}^t(\mathbb{R}^n)}\|$ for suitable parameters $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $0 < q < \infty$. In case of a compact d -set Γ , $0 < d < n$, this results in

$$(1.1) \quad \mathrm{tr}_{\Gamma} B_{p,q}^{\frac{n-d}{p}}(\mathbb{R}^n) = L_p(\Gamma) \quad \text{if } 0 < q \leq \min\{p, 1\}$$

and for $s > \frac{n-d}{p}$,

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\Gamma} B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^{s-\frac{n-d}{p}}(\Gamma),$$

see [Tr4] with some later additions in [Tr5, Tr6]. Here $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ are the usual Besov spaces defined on \mathbb{R}^n . In the classical case $d = n - 1$, $0 < p < \infty$, $0 < q \leq \min\{p, 1\}$ this reproduces the well-known trace result $\mathrm{tr}_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} B_{p,q}^{\frac{1}{p}}(\mathbb{R}^n) = L_p(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})$.

In case of h -sets Γ one needs to consider Besov spaces of generalised smoothness $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ which naturally extend $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$: instead of the smoothness parameter $s \in \mathbb{R}$ one now admits sequences $\sigma = (\sigma_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ of positive numbers which satisfy $\sigma_j \sim \sigma_{j+1}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Such spaces are special cases of $B_{p,q}^{\sigma,N}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ studied in [FaLe] recently, but they are known for a long time: apart from the interpolation approach (with a function parameter), see [Me, CoF], there is the rather abstract approach (approximation by series of entire analytic functions and coverings) developed independently by Gol'dman and Kalyabin in the late 70's and early 80's of the last century; we refer to the survey [KL] and the appendix [Li] which cover the extensive (Russian) literature at that time. We shall rely on the Fourier-analytical approach as presented in [FaLe]. It turns out that the classical smoothness $s \in \mathbb{R}$ has to be replaced by certain regularity indices $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma)$, $\underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma)$ of σ . In case of $\sigma = (2^{js})_j$ the spaces $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ coincide and $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) = \underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) = s$ in that case. Dealing with traces on h -sets Γ in a similar way as for d -sets, one obtains

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\Gamma} B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\Gamma),$$

where the sequence τ (representing smoothness) depends on σ , h (representing the geometry of Γ) and the underlying \mathbb{R}^n ; in particular, with $\mathbf{h} := (h(2^{-j}))_j$, $\mathbf{h}_p = \left(h(2^{-j})^{\frac{1}{p}} 2^{j\frac{n}{p}} \right)_j$, the counterpart of (1.1) reads as

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\Gamma} B_{p,q}^{\mathbf{h}_p}(\mathbb{R}^n) = L_p(\Gamma), \quad 0 < p < \infty, \quad 0 < q \leq \min\{p, 1\}.$$

These results were already obtained in [Br4] under some additional restrictions. In [Ca2] we studied sufficient conditions for the existence of such traces again (in the course of dealing with growth envelopes, characterising some singularity behaviour) and return to the subject now to obtain 'necessary' conditions, or, more precisely, conditions for the non-existence of traces. This problem is closely connected with the so-called *dichotomy*:

Triebel coined this notion in [Tr7] for, roughly speaking, the following alternative: the existence of a trace on Γ (by completion of pointwise traces) on the one hand, and the density of the set of smooth functions compactly supported outside Γ , denoted by $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$, on the other hand. Though it is rather obvious that the density of $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ in some space prevents the existence of a properly defined trace, it is not clear (and, in fact, not true in general) that there is some close connection vice versa. However, in some cases there appears an alternative that *either* we have an affirmative answer to the density question *or* traces exist. The criterion which case occurs naturally depends on the function spaces and the set Γ . Our main outcome in this respect, Theorem 3.18, establishes the following: if the h -set Γ satisfies, in addition, some porosity condition, σ is an admissible sequence and either $1 \leq p < \infty$, $0 < q < \infty$, or $0 < q \leq p < 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{either } & \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma) = \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\sigma h_p}(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{exists} \\ \text{or } & \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) \quad \text{is dense in } \quad B_{p,q}^{\sigma h_p}(\mathbb{R}^n) \\ & \text{and, therefore, } \quad \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\sigma h_p}(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ cannot exist.} \end{aligned}$$

This result is later reformulated in terms of the dichotomy introduced in [Tr7]. Note that there are further related approaches to trace and dichotomy questions in [Sch1, Sch2] for Besov spaces defined by differences, and in [Pi, Ha] referring to weighted settings.

The paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 we collect some fundamentals about h -sets and Besov spaces of generalised smoothness, including their atomic decomposition. In Section 3 we turn to trace questions with our main result being Theorem 3.18, before we finally deal with the dichotomy and obtain Corollary 3.30. Throughout the paper we add remarks, discussions and examples to illustrate the (sometimes technically involved) arguments and results.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 General notation

As usual, \mathbb{R}^n denotes the n -dimensional real Euclidean space, \mathbb{N} the collection of all natural numbers and $\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. We use the equivalence ‘ \sim ’ in

$$a_k \sim b_k \quad \text{or} \quad \varphi(x) \sim \psi(x)$$

always to mean that there are two positive numbers c_1 and c_2 such that

$$c_1 a_k \leq b_k \leq c_2 a_k \quad \text{or} \quad c_1 \varphi(x) \leq \psi(x) \leq c_2 \varphi(x)$$

for all admitted values of the discrete variable k or the continuous variable x , where $(a_k)_k$, $(b_k)_k$ are non-negative sequences and φ , ψ are non-negative functions. If only one of the inequalities above is meant, we use the symbol

\lesssim instead. Given two quasi-Banach spaces X and Y , we write $X \hookrightarrow Y$ if $X \subset Y$ and the natural embedding of X into Y is continuous.

All unimportant positive constants will be denoted by c , occasionally with additional subscripts within the same formula. If not otherwise indicated, \log is always taken with respect to base 2. For some $\varkappa \in \mathbb{R}$ let

$$(2.1) \quad \varkappa_+ = \max\{\varkappa, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \lfloor \varkappa \rfloor = \max\{k \in \mathbb{Z} : k \leq \varkappa\}.$$

Moreover, for $0 < r \leq \infty$ the number r' is given by $\frac{1}{r'} := \left(1 - \frac{1}{r}\right)_+$.

For convenience, let both dx and $|\cdot|$ stand for the (n -dimensional) Lebesgue measure in the sequel. The notation $|\cdot|$ is also used for the size of an n -tuple in \mathbb{N}_0^n and the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n , while $|\cdot|_\infty$ is reserved for the corresponding infinity norm.

Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $r > 0$, $B(x, r)$ denotes the closed ball

$$(2.2) \quad B(x, r) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : |y - x| \leq r\}.$$

2.2 h -sets Γ

A central concept for us is the theory of so-called h -sets and corresponding measures, we refer to a comprehensive treatment of this concept in [Ro]. Certainly one of the most prominent sub-class of these sets are the famous d -sets, see also Example 2.7 below, but it is also well-known that in many cases more general approaches are necessary, cf. [Ma, p. 60]. Here we essentially follow the presentation in [Br2, Br3, Br4, Br1], see also [Ma] for basic notions and concepts.

Definition 2.1. (i) Let \mathbb{H} denote the class of all positive continuous and non-decreasing functions $h : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (*gauge functions*) with $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} h(r) = 0$.

(ii) Let $h \in \mathbb{H}$. A non-empty compact set $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is called *h -set* if there exists a finite Radon measure μ in \mathbb{R}^n with

$$(2.3) \quad \text{supp } \mu = \Gamma,$$

$$(2.4) \quad \mu(B(\gamma, r)) \sim h(r), \quad r \in (0, 1], \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

If for a given $h \in \mathbb{H}$ there exists an h -set $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we call h a *measure function (in \mathbb{R}^n)* and any related measure μ with (2.3) and (2.4) will be called *h -measure (related to Γ)*.

We quote some results on h -sets and give examples afterwards; we refer to the above-mentioned books and papers for proofs and a more detailed account on geometric properties of h -sets.

In view of (ii) the question arises which $h \in \mathbb{H}$ are measure functions. We give a necessary condition first, see [Br2, Thm. 1.7.6].

Proposition 2.2. *Let $h \in \mathbb{H}$ be a measure function. Then there exists some $c > 0$ such that for all $j, k \in \mathbb{N}_0$,*

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{h(2^{-k-j})}{h(2^{-j})} \geq c 2^{-kn}.$$

Remark 2.3. Note that every h -set Γ satisfies the *doubling condition*, i.e. there is some $c > 0$ such that

$$(2.6) \quad \mu(B(\gamma, 2r)) \leq c \mu(B(\gamma, r)), \quad r \in (0, 1], \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

Obviously one can regard (2.5) as a refined version of (2.6) for the function h , in which the dimension n of the underlying space \mathbb{R}^n is taken into account (as expected).

The complete characterisation for functions $h \in \mathbb{H}$ to be measure functions is given in [Br3]: There is a compact set Γ and a Radon measure μ with (2.3) and (2.4) if, and only if, there are constants $0 < c_1 \leq c_2 < \infty$ and a function $h^* \in \mathbb{H}$ such that

$$c_1 h^*(t) \leq h(t) \leq c_2 h^*(t), \quad t \in (0, 1],$$

and

$$(2.7) \quad h^*(2^{-j}) \leq 2^{kn} h^*(2^{-k-j}), \quad \text{for all } j, k \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Proposition 2.4. *Let Γ be an h -set in \mathbb{R}^n . All h -measures μ related to Γ are equivalent to $\mathcal{H}^h|_\Gamma$, where the latter stands for the restriction to Γ of the generalised Hausdorff measure with respect to the gauge function h .*

Remark 2.5. A proof of this result is given in [Br2, Thm. 1.7.6]. Concerning the theory of generalised Hausdorff measures \mathcal{H}^h we refer to [Ro, Chapter 2] and [Ma, p. 60]; in particular, if $h(r) = r^d$, then \mathcal{H}^h coincides with the usual d -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

We recall a description of measure functions and explicate a few examples afterwards.

Proposition 2.6. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$.*

(i) *Let $\xi : (0, 1] \rightarrow [0, n]$ be a measurable function. Then the function*

$$(2.8) \quad h(r) = \exp\left\{-\int_r^1 \xi(s) \frac{ds}{s}\right\}, \quad r \in (0, 1]$$

is a measure function.

(ii) *Conversely, let h be a given measure function. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a measurable function $\xi : (0, 1] \rightarrow [-\varepsilon, n + \varepsilon]$ such that*

$$(2.9) \quad h(r) \sim \exp\left\{-\int_r^1 \xi(s) \frac{ds}{s}\right\}, \quad r \in (0, 1].$$

This version of the theorem is given in [Br4, Thm. 3.7]; it can also be identified as a special case of a result in [BGT, pp. 74].

Example 2.7. We restrict ourselves to a few examples only, but in view of Proposition 2.6 one can easily find further examples, we refer to [Br4, Ex. 3.8], too. All functions are defined for $r \in (0, \varepsilon)$, suitably extended on $(0, 1]$ afterwards.

Let Ψ be a continuous *admissible* function or a continuous *slowly varying* function, respectively. An *admissible* function Ψ in the sense of [ET2, Mo2] is a positive monotone function on $(0, 1]$ such that $\Psi(2^{-2j}) \sim \Psi(2^{-j})$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$. A positive and measurable function Ψ defined on the interval $(0, 1]$ is said to be *slowly varying* (in Karamata's sense) if

$$(2.10) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Psi(st)}{\Psi(t)} = 1, \quad s \in (0, 1].$$

For such functions it is known, for instance, that for any $\delta > 0$ there exists $c = c(\delta) > 1$ such that $\frac{1}{c} s^\delta \leq \frac{\Psi(st)}{\Psi(t)} \leq c s^{-\delta}$, for $t, s \in (0, 1]$, and for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a non-increasing function ϕ and a non-decreasing function φ with $t^{-\varepsilon} \Psi(t) \sim \phi(t)$, and $t^\varepsilon \Psi(t) \sim \varphi(t)$; we refer to the monograph [BGT] for details and further properties; see also [Zy, Ch. V], [EKP], and [Ne1, Ne2]. In particular,

$$(2.11) \quad \Psi_b(x) = (1 + |\log x|)^b, \quad x \in (0, 1], \quad b \in \mathbb{R},$$

may be considered as a prototype both for an admissible function and a slowly varying function.

Let $0 < d < n$. Then

$$(2.12) \quad h(r) = r^d \Psi(r), \quad r \in (0, 1],$$

is a typical example for $h \in \mathbb{H}$. The limiting cases $d = 0$ and $d = n$ can be included, assuming additional properties of Ψ in view of (2.5) and $h(r) \rightarrow 0$ for $r \rightarrow 0$, e.g.

$$(2.13) \quad h(r) = (1 + |\log r|)^b, \quad b < 0, \quad r \in (0, 1],$$

referring to (2.11).

Later on we shall need to consider measure functions of this kind when $b \in [-1, 0)$, so we would like to mention here that with this restriction the proof that the above is a measure function is a simple application of the characterisation given just before Proposition 2.4 (take $h^* = h$ and observe that, for $b \in [-1, 0)$, $(1 + x)^b 2^{xn} \geq 1$ for $x = 0$ and for $x \geq 1$, from which follows (2.7) taking $x = k$).

Such functions h given by (2.12) are related to so-called (d, Ψ) -sets studied in [ET2, Mo2], whereas the special setting $\Psi \equiv 1$ leads to

$$(2.14) \quad h(r) = r^d, \quad r \in (0, 1], \quad 0 < d < n,$$

connected with the famous d -sets. Apart from (2.12) also functions of type $h(r) = \exp(b|\log r|^\varkappa)$, $b < 0$, $0 < \varkappa < 1$, are admitted.

We shall need another feature of h -sets, namely the so-called ‘porosity’ condition, see also [Ma, p.156] and [Tr5, Sects. 9.16-9.19].

Definition 2.8. A Borel set $\Gamma \neq \emptyset$ satisfies the *porosity condition* if there exists a number $0 < \eta < 1$, such that for any ball $B(\gamma, r)$ centered at $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and with radius $0 < r \leq 1$, there is a ball $B(x, \eta r)$ centered at some $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying

$$(2.15) \quad B(\gamma, r) \supset B(x, \eta r), \quad B(x, \eta r) \cap \bar{\Gamma} = \emptyset.$$

Replacing η by $\frac{\eta}{2}$, we can complement (2.15) by

$$(2.16) \quad \text{dist} (B(x, \eta r), \bar{\Gamma}) \geq \eta r, \quad 0 < r \leq 1.$$

This definition coincides with [Tr4, Def. 18.10]. There is a complete characterisation for measure functions h such that the corresponding h -sets Γ satisfy the porosity condition; this can be found in [Tr5, Prop. 9.18]. We recall it for convenience.

Proposition 2.9. *Let $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an h -set. Then Γ satisfies the porosity condition if, and only if, there exist constants $c > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that*

$$(2.17) \quad \frac{h(2^{-j-k})}{h(2^{-j})} \geq c 2^{-(n-\varepsilon)k}, \quad j, k \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Note that an h -set Γ satisfying the porosity condition has Lebesgue measure $|\Gamma| = 0$, but the converse is not true. This can be seen from (2.17) and the result [Tr6, Prop. 1.153],

$$(2.18) \quad |\Gamma| = 0 \quad \text{if, and only if,} \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{r^n}{h(r)} = 0$$

for all h -sets Γ .

Remark 2.10. In view of our above examples and (2.17) it is obvious that h from (2.12) and (2.14) with $d = n$ does not satisfy the porosity condition, unlike in case of $d < n$.

Let $L_p(\Omega)$, $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, $0 < p \leq \infty$, stand for the usual quasi-Banach space of p -integrable (measurable, essentially bounded if $p = \infty$) functions with respect to the Lebesgue measure, quasi-normed by

$$\|f\|_{L_p(\Omega)} := \left(\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p},$$

with the obvious modification if $p = \infty$. Moreover, when $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an h -set in the sense of Definition 2.1, then we consider $L_p(\Gamma) = L_p(\Gamma, \mu)$ as the

usual quasi-Banach space of p -integrable (measurable, essentially bounded if $p = \infty$) functions on Γ with respect to the measure μ , quasi-normed by

$$\|f\|_{L_p(\Gamma)} = \left(\int_{\Gamma} |f(\gamma)|^p \mu(d\gamma) \right)^{1/p} < \infty$$

for $0 < p < \infty$, and

$$\|f\|_{L_\infty(\Gamma)} = \inf \{s > 0 : \mu(\{\gamma \in \Gamma : |f(\gamma)| > s\}) = 0\} < \infty.$$

In view of Proposition 2.4 all (possibly different) measures μ corresponding to h result in the same $L_p(\Gamma)$ space.

2.3 Function spaces of generalised smoothness

We deal with the concept of admissible sequences first.

Definition 2.11. A sequence $\sigma = (\sigma_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ of positive numbers is called *admissible* if there are two positive constants d_0, d_1 such that

$$(2.19) \quad d_0 \sigma_j \leq \sigma_{j+1} \leq d_1 \sigma_j, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Remark 2.12. If σ and τ are admissible sequences, then $\sigma\tau := (\sigma_j\tau_j)_j$ and $\sigma^r := (\sigma_j^r)_j$, $r \in \mathbb{R}$, are admissible, too. For later use we introduce the notation

$$(2.20) \quad (a) := (2^{ja})_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0} \quad \text{where } a \in \mathbb{R},$$

that is $(a) = \sigma$ with $\sigma_j = 2^{ja}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Obviously, for $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$, and σ admissible, we have $(a)(b) = (a+b)$, $(\frac{a}{r}) = (a)^{1/r}$, and $(a)\sigma = (2^{ja}\sigma_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0}$.

Example 2.13. Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$, Ψ be an admissible function in the sense of Example 2.7 above. Then $\sigma = (2^{js}\Psi(2^{-j}))_j$ is admissible, including, in particular, $\sigma = (s)$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$. We refer to [FaLe] for a more general approach and further examples.

We introduce some ‘regularity’ indices for σ .

Definition 2.14. Let σ be an admissible sequence, and

$$(2.21) \quad \underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) := \liminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} \log \left(\frac{\sigma_{j+1}}{\sigma_j} \right)$$

and

$$(2.22) \quad \bar{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) := \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \log \left(\frac{\sigma_{j+1}}{\sigma_j} \right).$$

Remark 2.15. These indices were introduced and used in [Br2]. For admissible sequences σ according to (2.19) we have $\log d_0 \leq \underline{s}(\sigma) \leq \bar{s}(\sigma) \leq \log d_1$. One easily verifies that

$$(2.23) \quad \bar{s}(\sigma) = \underline{s}(\sigma) = s \quad \text{in case of } \sigma = (2^{js}\Psi(2^{-j}))_j$$

for all admissible functions Ψ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$. On the other hand one can find examples in [FaLe], due to KALYABIN, showing that an admissible sequence has not necessarily a fixed main order. Moreover, it is known that for any $0 < a \leq b < \infty$, there is an admissible sequence σ with $\underline{s}(\sigma) = a$ and $\bar{s}(\sigma) = b$, that is, with prescribed upper and lower indices.

For later use we fix some observations that are more or less immediate consequences of the definitions (2.21), (2.22). Let σ, τ be admissible sequences. Then

$$(2.24) \quad \underline{s}(\sigma) = -\bar{s}(\sigma^{-1}), \quad \underline{s}(\sigma^r) = r \underline{s}(\sigma), \quad r \geq 0,$$

and

$$(2.25) \quad \bar{s}(\sigma\tau) \leq \bar{s}(\sigma) + \bar{s}(\tau), \quad \underline{s}(\sigma\tau) \geq \underline{s}(\sigma) + \underline{s}(\tau).$$

In particular, for $\sigma = (a)$, $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then (2.25) can be sharpened by

$$(2.26) \quad \bar{s}(\tau(a)) = a + \bar{s}(\tau), \quad \underline{s}(\tau(a)) = a + \underline{s}(\tau).$$

Observe that, given $\varepsilon > 0$, there are two positive constants $c_1 = c_1(\varepsilon)$ and $c_2 = c_2(\varepsilon)$ such that

$$(2.27) \quad c_1 2^{(\underline{s}(\sigma)-\varepsilon)j} \leq \sigma_j \leq c_2 2^{(\bar{s}(\sigma)+\varepsilon)j}, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Plainly this implies that whenever $\underline{s}(\sigma) > 0$, then σ^{-1} belongs to any space ℓ_u , $0 < u \leq \infty$, whereas $\bar{s}(\sigma) < 0$ leads to $\sigma^{-1} \notin \ell_\infty$.

Remark 2.16. Note that in some later papers, cf. [Br1], instead of (2.21) and (2.22) the so-called *upper* and *lower Boyd indices* of σ are considered, given by

$$(2.28) \quad \alpha_\sigma = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{j} \log \left(\sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} \frac{\sigma_{j+k}}{\sigma_k} \right) = \inf_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{j} \log \left(\sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} \frac{\sigma_{j+k}}{\sigma_k} \right)$$

and

$$(2.29) \quad \beta_\sigma = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{j} \log \left(\inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} \frac{\sigma_{j+k}}{\sigma_k} \right) = \sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{j} \log \left(\inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} \frac{\sigma_{j+k}}{\sigma_k} \right)$$

respectively. In general we have

$$\underline{s}(\sigma) \leq \beta_\sigma \leq \alpha_\sigma \leq \bar{s}(\sigma),$$

but one can construct admissible sequences with $\underline{s}(\sigma) < \beta_\sigma$ and $\alpha_\sigma < \bar{s}(\sigma)$.

We want to introduce function spaces of generalised smoothness and need to recall some notation. By $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we denote the Schwartz space of all complex-valued, infinitely differentiable and rapidly decreasing functions on \mathbb{R}^n and by $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ the dual space of all tempered distributions on \mathbb{R}^n . If $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then

$$(2.30) \quad \widehat{\varphi}(\xi) \equiv (\mathcal{F}\varphi)(\xi) := (2\pi)^{-n/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-ix\xi} \varphi(x) \, dx, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

denotes the Fourier transform of φ . As usual, $\mathcal{F}^{-1}\varphi$ or φ^\vee stands for the inverse Fourier transform, given by the right-hand side of (2.30) with i in place of $-i$. Here $x\xi$ denotes the scalar product in \mathbb{R}^n . Both \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F}^{-1} are extended to $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in the standard way. Let $\varphi_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be such that

$$(2.31) \quad \varphi_0(x) = 1 \quad \text{if } |x| \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp } \varphi_0 \subset \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \leq 2\},$$

and for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$ let

$$(2.32) \quad \varphi_j(x) := \varphi_0(2^{-j}x) - \varphi_0(2^{-j+1}x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Then the sequence $(\varphi_j)_{j=0}^\infty$ forms a smooth dyadic resolution of unity.

Definition 2.17. Let σ be an admissible sequence, $0 < p, q \leq \infty$, and $(\varphi_j)_{j=0}^\infty$ a smooth dyadic resolution of unity (in the sense described above). Then

$$(2.33) \quad B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n) = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n) : \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma_j^q \|\mathcal{F}^{-1}\varphi_j \mathcal{F}f\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^q \right)^{1/q} < \infty \right\}$$

(with the usual modification if $q = \infty$).

Remark 2.18. These spaces are quasi-Banach spaces, independent of the chosen resolution of unity, and $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$ when $p < \infty$ and $q < \infty$. Taking $\sigma = (2^{js})_j$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we obtain the classical Besov spaces $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$, whereas $\sigma = (2^{js}\Psi(2^{-j}))_j$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, Ψ an admissible function, leads to spaces $B_{p,q}^{(s,\Psi)}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, studied in [Mo1, Mo2] in detail. Moreover, the above spaces $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$ are special cases of the more general approach investigated in [FaLe]. For the theory of spaces $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we refer to the series of monographs [Tr2, Tr3, Tr4, Tr5, Tr6].

We recall the atomic characterisation of spaces $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$, for later use. Let \mathbb{Z}^n stand for the lattice of all points in \mathbb{R}^n with integer-valued components, Q_{jm} denote a cube in \mathbb{R}^n with sides parallel to the axes of coordinates, centered at $2^{-j}m = (2^{-j}m_1, \dots, 2^{-j}m_n)$, and with side length 2^{-j} , where $m \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ and $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$. If Q is a cube in \mathbb{R}^n with sides parallel to the axes of coordinates and $r > 0$, then rQ is the cube in \mathbb{R}^n concentric with Q , with sides parallel to the sides of Q and r times the length.

Definition 2.19. Let $K \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $b > 1$.

(i) A K times differentiable complex-valued function $a(x)$ in \mathbb{R}^n (continuous if $K = 0$) is called an 1_K -atom if

$$(2.34) \quad \text{supp } a \subset bQ_{0m}, \quad \text{for some } m \in \mathbb{Z}^n,$$

and

$$|D^\alpha a(x)| \leq 1, \quad \text{for } |\alpha| \leq K.$$

(ii) Let $L+1 \in \mathbb{N}_0$, and σ be admissible. A K times differentiable complex-valued function $a(x)$ in \mathbb{R}^n (continuous if $K = 0$) is called an $(\sigma, p)_{K,L}$ -atom if for some $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

$$(2.35) \quad \text{supp } a \subset bQ_{jm}, \quad \text{for some } m \in \mathbb{Z}^n,$$

$$(2.36) \quad |D^\alpha a(x)| \leq \sigma_j^{-1} 2^{j(\frac{n}{p} + |\alpha|)} \quad \text{for } |\alpha| \leq K, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

and

$$(2.37) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} x^\beta a(x) dx = 0, \quad \text{if } |\beta| \leq L.$$

We adopt the usual convention to denote atoms located at Q_{jm} (which means (2.34) or (2.35)) by a_{jm} , $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. For sequences $\lambda = (\lambda_{jm})_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0, m \in \mathbb{Z}^n}$ of complex numbers the Besov sequence spaces $b_{p,q}$, $0 < p, q \leq \infty$, are given by

$$(2.38) \quad \lambda \in b_{p,q} \quad \text{if, and only if,} \quad \|\lambda\|_{b_{p,q}} = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^n} |\lambda_{jm}|^p \right)^{q/p} \right)^{1/q} < \infty$$

(with the usual modification if $p = \infty$ or $q = \infty$). The atomic decomposition theorem for $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$ reads as follows, see [FaLe, Thm. 4.4.3, Rem. 4.4.8].

Proposition 2.20. Let σ be admissible, $b > 1$, $0 < p, q \leq \infty$, $K \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $L+1 \in \mathbb{N}_0$ with

$$(2.39) \quad K > \bar{s}(\sigma), \quad \text{and} \quad L > -1 + n \left(\frac{1}{p} - 1 \right)_+ - \underline{s}(\sigma)$$

be fixed. Then $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ belongs to $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if, and only if, it can be represented as

$$(2.40) \quad f = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \lambda_{jm} a_{jm}(x), \quad \text{convergence being in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n),$$

where $\lambda \in b_{p,q}$ and $a_{jm}(x)$ are 1_K -atoms ($j = 0$) or $(\sigma, p)_{K,L}$ -atoms ($j \in \mathbb{N}$) according to Definition 2.19. Furthermore,

$$\inf \|\lambda\|_{b_{p,q}},$$

where the infimum is taken over all admissible representations (2.40), is an equivalent quasi-norm in $B_{p,q}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Remark 2.21. For later use it is useful to remark that, for fixed $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$, the family

$$\{Q_{jm} : m \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$$

constitutes a tessellation of \mathbb{R}^n . We shall call it a *tessellation of step 2^{-j}* and denote each cube of it by a (corresponding) *grid cube*.

Remark 2.22. The following shall also be of use later on: given the families of tessellations as above (for any possible $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$), clearly there exists, for each $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$, a partition of unity

$$\{\varphi_{jm} : m \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$$

of \mathbb{R}^n by functions φ_{jm} supported on $\frac{3}{2}Q_{jm}$ and such that, for each $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$, there exists $c_\gamma > 0$ independent of j such that

$$(2.41) \quad |D^\gamma \varphi_{jm}(x)| \leq c_\gamma 2^{j|\gamma|}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}^n.$$

We shall call it a *partition of unity of step 2^{-j}* .

3 Besov spaces on Γ

Let Γ be some h -set, $h \in \mathbb{H}$. We follow [Br2] and use the abbreviation

$$(3.1) \quad \mathbf{h} := (h_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}_0} \quad \text{with} \quad h_j := h(2^{-j}), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0,$$

for the sequence connected with $h \in \mathbb{H}$.

3.1 Trace spaces $\mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma)$

Recall that $L_p(\Gamma) = L_p(\Gamma, \mu)$, where $\mu \sim \mathcal{H}^h|_\Gamma$ is related to the h -set Γ . Suppose there exists some $c > 0$ such that for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$,

$$(3.2) \quad \|\varphi|_\Gamma\|_{L_p(\Gamma)} \leq c \|\varphi|_{B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)}\|,$$

where the restriction on Γ is taken pointwisely. By the density of $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for $p, q < \infty$ and the completeness of $L_p(\Gamma)$ one can thus define for $f \in B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ its trace $\text{tr}_\Gamma f$ on Γ by completion of pointwise restrictions.

This was the approach followed in [Br2, Def. 3.3.5], conjugating general embedding results for Besov spaces on \mathbb{R}^n (as seen for example in [CaF, Thm. 3.7] or [Br2, Prop. 2.2.16]) with the fact that (3.2) above holds for $\tau = \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$, $0 < p < \infty$, $0 < q \leq \min\{p, 1\}$ (cf. [Br2, Thm. 3.3.1(i)]). Then we have, following [Br2, Def. 3.3.5], that for $0 < p, q < \infty$ and σ admissible with $\underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) > 0$, Besov spaces $\mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma)$ on Γ are defined as

$$(3.3) \quad \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma) := \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\sigma \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n),$$

more precisely,

$$(3.4) \quad \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma) := \left\{ f \in L_p(\Gamma) : \exists g \in B_{p,q}^{\sigma \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n), \operatorname{tr}_\Gamma g = f \right\},$$

equipped with the quasi-norm

$$(3.5) \quad \|f\|_{\mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma)} = \inf \left\{ \|g\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} : \operatorname{tr}_\Gamma g = f, g \in B_{p,q}^{\sigma \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \right\}.$$

This was extended in the following way in [Ca2, Def. 2.7]:

Definition 3.1. Let $0 < p, q < \infty$, σ be an admissible sequence, and Γ be an h -set. Assume that

(i) in case of $p \geq 1$ or $q \leq p < 1$,

$$(3.6) \quad \sigma^{-1} \in \ell_{q'},$$

(ii) in case of $0 < p < 1$ and $p < q$,

$$(3.7) \quad \sigma^{-1} \mathbf{h}^{\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{p}} \in \ell_{v_r} \quad \text{for some } r \in [p, \min\{q, 1\}] \text{ and } \frac{1}{v_r} = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{q},$$

is satisfied. Then (it makes sense to) define $\mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma)$ as in (3.3), (3.4), again with the quasi-norm given by (3.5).

Remark 3.2. The reasonability of declaring that smoothness (1) (that is, 0, in classical notation) on Γ corresponds to smoothness $\mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$ on \mathbb{R}^n — as is implicit in (3.3) — comes from the fact that, at least when Γ also satisfies the porosity condition, we have indeed that $\operatorname{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n) = L_p(\Gamma)$ when $0 < p < \infty$, $0 < q \leq \min\{p, 1\}$ — cf. [Br2, Thm. 3.3.1(ii)].

Remark 3.3. Both in [Br2] and in [Ca2] the definition of Besov spaces on Γ also covers the cases when p or q can be ∞ , following some convenient modifications of the approach given above. However, in view of the main results to be presented in this paper, the restriction to $0 < p, q < \infty$ is natural for us here, as will be apparent in the following subsection.

Remark 3.4. We briefly compare the different assumptions in [Br2, Def. 3.3.5] and in Definition 3.1 above. Due to the observation made immediately after (2.27), $\underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) > 0$ implies $\sigma^{-1} \in \ell_v$ for arbitrary v , i.e. (3.6) and (3.7) with $r = p$. The converse, however, is not true, take e.g. $\sigma_j = (1 + j)^\varkappa$, $\varkappa \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) = 0$, but $\sigma^{-1} \in \ell_{q'}$ for $\varkappa > \frac{1}{q'}$, corresponding to (3.6). As for (3.7), say with $p = r$, for the same σ given above we have also that $\sigma^{-1} \in \ell_{v_p}$ for $\varkappa > \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}$, but still $\underline{\mathfrak{s}}(\sigma) = 0$. So the above definition is in fact a proper extension of the one considered in [Br2] and, as we shall see, will (at least in some cases) be indeed the largest possible extension.

Remark 3.5. The definition above applies in particular when Γ is a d -set and $\sigma = (s)$ with $s > 0$. In simpler notation, we can write in this case that

$$(3.8) \quad \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^s(\Gamma) = \operatorname{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{s + \frac{n-d}{p}}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

This coincides with [Tr4, Def. 20.2].

3.2 Criteria for non-existence of trace spaces

Here we shall try to get necessary conditions for the existence of the trace. To this end, we explore the point of view that the trace cannot exist in the sense used in Definition 3.1 when $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$, the set of test functions with compact support outside Γ , is dense in $B_{p,q}^{\sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

In fact, assume that $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\varphi \equiv 1$ on a neighbourhood of Γ . Clearly, $\varphi \in B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then there exists a sequence $(\psi_k)_k \subset \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ with

$$(3.9) \quad \|\varphi - \psi_k|_{B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\| \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

If the trace were to exist in the sense explained before, this would imply

$$(3.10) \quad 0 = \psi_k|_{\Gamma} = \text{tr}_{\Gamma} \psi_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{tr}_{\Gamma} \varphi = \varphi|_{\Gamma} = 1 \quad \text{in } L_p(\Gamma),$$

which is a contradiction.

Discussion 3.6. So in order to disprove the existence of the trace in certain cases it is sufficient to show the density of $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ in $B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Further, we may restrict ourselves to functions $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ because of their density in $B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $0 < p, q < \infty$, and approximate them by functions $\psi_k \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$. We shall construct such ψ_k based on finite sums of the type

$$\sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r,$$

where I_k is some finite index set, $\lambda_r \in \mathbb{C}$ and φ_r are compactly supported smooth functions with

$$(3.11) \quad \sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi = \varphi$$

on a neighbourhood (depending on k) of Γ , φ as above, and

$$(3.12) \quad \left\| \sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi |_{B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \right\| \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Plainly, then $\psi_k := \varphi - \sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\|\varphi - \psi_k|_{B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)}\| = \left\| \sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi |_{B_{p,q}^{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \right\| \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

and therefore the required density is proved.

The limit in (3.12) above is going to be computed with the help of atomic representations for the functions considered. In order to explain how this will be done, we need first to consider a preliminary result which connects the Definition 2.1 of h -sets with the structure of the atomic representation theorem given in Proposition 2.20.

Definition 3.7. Given a set $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $r > 0$, we shall denote by Γ_r the neighbourhood of radius r of Γ . That is,

$$\Gamma_r := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{dist}(x, \Gamma) < r\}.$$

Lemma 3.8. Let Γ be an h -set in \mathbb{R}^n with μ a corresponding Radon measure. Let $j \in \mathbb{N}$. There is a cover $\{Q(j, i)\}_{i=1}^{N_j}$ of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ such that

- (i) $N_j \sim h_j^{-1}$,
- (ii) $Q(j, i)$ are cubes in \mathbb{R}^n of side length $\sim 2^{-j}$,
- (iii) each $Q(j, i)$ is, in fact, the union of ~ 1 grid cubes of a tessellation of \mathbb{R}^n of step 2^{-j} in accordance with Remark 2.21,
- (iv) each $Q(j, i)$ contains a ball of radius $\sim 2^{-j}$ centred at a point of Γ such that any pair of them, for different values of i , are disjoint.

Denote by $\mathcal{Q}(j)$ the family of all grid cubes obtained in this way (that is, $\mathcal{Q}(j) = \{Q_{jm} : Q_{jm} \subset Q(j, i) \text{ for some } i\}$) and consider the corresponding functions of a related partition of unity $\{\varphi_{jm}\}$ of step 2^{-j} of \mathbb{R}^n in accordance with Remark 2.22. That is, consider only the functions of that partition which are supported on $\frac{3}{2}Q_{jm}$ such that $Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)$.

The cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ considered above can be chosen in such a way that the family

$$\{\varphi_{jm} : Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)\}$$

is a partition of unity of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$.

All equivalence constants in the estimates above are independent of j and i .

Proof. For each $j \in \mathbb{N}$, start by considering an optimal cover of Γ in the sense of [Br2, Lemma 1.8.3], that is, a cover by balls $B(\gamma_i, 2^{-j-1})$ centred at points $\gamma_i \in \Gamma$ and such that $B(\gamma_i, \frac{2^{-j-1}}{3}) \cap B(\gamma_k, \frac{2^{-j-1}}{3}) = \emptyset$ for $i \neq k$. As was pointed out in [Br2, Lemma 1.8.3], the number $N_{2^{-j-1}}$ of balls in such a cover satisfy

$$(3.13) \quad N_{2^{-j-1}} \sim h_{j+1}^{-1}.$$

It is not difficult to see that each $B(\gamma_i, 2^{-j-1})$ is contained in the union of 2^n grid cubes of the type Q_{jm} which together form a cube of side length 2^{-j+1} and which we shall provisionally denote by $Q(j, i)$. Then assertions (ii)-(iv) of the lemma are clear. As to (i), it is also clear, using (3.13) and Proposition 2.2, that $N_j \lesssim h_j^{-1}$. The reverse inequality follows from the fact that there can only be ~ 1 different $B(\gamma_k, 2^{-j-1})$ giving rise to the same $Q(j, i)$, because each one of those produces also a ball $B(\gamma_k, \frac{2^{-j-1}}{3})$ which is disjoint from all the other balls obtained in a similar way. Eliminating the repetitions among the previously considered $Q(j, i)$ and redefining the i accordingly, we get a possible cover of Γ satisfying (i)-(iv) of the lemma.

In order to get from here a corresponding cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$, we just need to enlarge each one of the previous $Q(j, i)$ by adding to it all the $4^n - 2^n$ surrounding grid cubes which touch it. It is clear that the new cubes $Q(j, i)$ obtained in this way also satisfy (i)-(iv) above.

Finally, if we further enlarge the preceding $Q(j, i)$ by adding to it all the $6^n - 4^n$ surrounding grid cubes which touch it, clearly we do not destroy properties (i)-(iv) for the new cubes $Q(j, i)$ obtained in this way, this cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ satisfying also the property that

$$\{\varphi_{jm} : Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)\}$$

is a partition of unity of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$. \square

Remark 3.9. It follows from the construction above that $\mathcal{Q}(j)$ is also a cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ with $\#\mathcal{Q}(j) \sim h_j^{-1}$ (though a property like (iv) above cannot be guaranteed for each grid cube in $\mathcal{Q}(j)$).

Remark 3.10. We shall use the expression “optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ ” when referring to a cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j}}$ satisfying all the requirements of the lemma above.

We return now to the question of calculating the limit (3.12) in Discussion 3.6.

Discussion 3.11. The index set I_k , $k \in \mathbb{N}$, will have the structure

$$(3.14) \quad I_k = \{(j, m) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}^n : j \in J_k, m \in M_j\},$$

where J_k and M_j are appropriately chosen finite subsets of \mathbb{N} and \mathbb{Z}^n respectively. In any case, for each $(j, m) \in I_k$ the relation $\text{dist}(Q_{jm}, \Gamma) \lesssim 2^{-j}$ should be satisfied. With $r = (j, m) \in I_k$, we shall also require that

$$(3.15) \quad \text{supp } \varphi_r \subset b Q_{jm},$$

for some constant $b > 1$, and, for arbitrary fixed $K \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$(3.16) \quad |D^\gamma \varphi_r(x)| \leq c_K 2^{j|\gamma|}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\gamma| \leq K.$$

We claim that then (apart from constants) the functions $a_{(j,m)} = \tau_j^{-1} 2^{j\frac{n}{p}} \varphi_{(j,m)} \varphi$ are $(\tau, p)_{K,-1}$ -atoms (no moment conditions) located at Q_{jm} : the support condition is obvious; as for the derivatives we calculate for $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$, $|\alpha| \leq K$, that

$$\begin{aligned} |D^\alpha a_{(j,m)}(x)| &\leq \tau_j^{-1} 2^{j\frac{n}{p}} \sum_{\gamma \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\gamma} |D^\gamma \varphi_{(j,m)}(x)| |D^{\alpha-\gamma} \varphi(x)| \\ &\leq \tau_j^{-1} 2^{j\frac{n}{p}} c'_K 2^{j|\alpha|} \|\varphi\| C^K(\mathbb{R}^n) \\ &\leq C_{K,\varphi} \tau_j^{-1} 2^{j(\frac{n}{p}+|\alpha|)}, \end{aligned}$$

fitting the needs of Definition 2.19.

Since

$$\sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi = \sum_{(j,m) \in I_k} (\lambda_{(j,m)} C_{K,\varphi} \tau_j 2^{-j \frac{n}{p}}) (C_{K,\varphi}^{-1} a_{(j,m)}),$$

to the effect of obtaining (3.12) we can then estimate from above the quasi-norm of this function by applying Proposition 2.20, in case the parameters considered do not require moment conditions.

If moment conditions are required, in the presence of porosity of the h -set Γ a standard procedure can be applied in order to identify the above sum at least in a smaller neighbourhood of Γ (smaller than the one considered apropos of (3.11)) with an atomic representation

$$\sum_{(j,m) \in I_k} (c_2^{-1} \lambda_{(j,m)} C_{K,\varphi} \tau_j 2^{-j \frac{n}{p}}) (c_2 C_{K,\varphi}^{-1} \tilde{a}_{(j,m)})$$

with the appropriate moment conditions and, as is apparent, producing essentially the same upper estimate by application of Proposition 2.20. So, in this case we replace, in Discussion 3.6, $\sum_{r \in I_k} \lambda_r \varphi_r \varphi$ by the above sum, keeping a property like (3.11). In any case, following Proposition 2.20, the quasi-norms of both sums in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ are estimated by

$$(3.17) \quad \lesssim \left(\sum_{j \in J_k} \left(\sum_{m \in M_j} |\lambda_{(j,m)} \tau_j 2^{-j \frac{n}{p}}|^p \right)^{q/p} \right)^{1/q}.$$

The standard procedure referred to above, leading to the creation of atoms with appropriate moment conditions, though still coinciding with the former atoms in a somewhat smaller neighbourhood of a set satisfying the porosity condition, comes from [TW] and was, for example, used in [Ca1] and, more recently, in [Tr7]. It is quite technical, but we give here a brief description, for the convenience of the reader:

For each Q_{jm} as above, namely with $\text{dist}(Q_{jm}, \Gamma) \lesssim 2^{-j}$, fix an element of Γ , $x_{j,m}$ say, at a distance $\lesssim 2^{-j}$ of Q_{jm} . Clearly, there is a constant $c_1 > 0$ such that $Q_{jm} \subset B(x_{j,m}, c_1 2^{-j})$. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $0 < c_1 2^{-j} < 1$, so that, from the fact Γ satisfies the porosity condition given in Definition 2.8, there exists $y_{j,m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $B(y_{j,m}, \eta c_1 2^{-j}) \subset B(x_{j,m}, c_1 2^{-j})$ and $B(y_{j,m}, \eta c_1 2^{-j}) \cap \Gamma = \emptyset$, where $0 < \eta < 1$ is as in Definition 2.8. Obviously, as mentioned in (2.16), we can also say that $\text{dist}(B(y_{j,m}, \eta c_1 2^{-j-1}), \Gamma) \geq \eta c_1 2^{-j-1}$.

Fix a natural L as in (2.39) — with τ instead of σ — and let ψ_γ , with $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$ and $|\gamma| \leq L$, be C^∞ -functions ψ_γ with support in the open ball $\overset{\circ}{B}(0, 1)$ and satisfying the property

$$\forall \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\beta|, |\gamma| \leq L, \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} x^\beta \psi_\gamma(x) dx = \delta_{\beta\gamma},$$

where $\delta_{\beta\gamma}$ stands for the Kronecker symbol (for a proof of the existence of such functions, see [TW, p. 665]).

Define, for each j, m as above,

$$d_\gamma^{j,m} \equiv \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} x^\gamma a_{(j,m)}(\eta c_1 2^{-j-1}x + y_{j,m}) dx, \quad \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\gamma| \leq L,$$

and

$$\tilde{a}_{(j,m)}(z) = a_{(j,m)}(z) - \sum_{|\gamma| \leq L} d_\gamma^{j,m} \psi_\gamma((\eta c_1)^{-1} 2^{j+1}(z - y_{j,m})), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

It is easy to see that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} ((\eta c_1)^{-1} 2^{j+1}(z - y_{j,m}))^\beta \tilde{a}_{(j,m)}(z) dz = 0, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\beta| \leq L,$$

and, consequently (by Newton's binomial formula),

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} z^\beta \tilde{a}_{(j,m)}(z) dz = 0, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\beta| \leq L.$$

This means that each $\tilde{a}_{(j,m)}$ has the required moment conditions for the atoms in the atomic representations of functions of $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Actually, it is not difficult to see that there exists a positive constant c_2 such that $c_2 C_{K,\varphi}^{-1} \tilde{a}_{(j,m)}$ is a $(\tau, p)_{K,L}$ -atom located at Q_{jm} .

Since, from the hypotheses and choices that have been made, $\tilde{a}_{(j,m)} = a_{(j,m)}$ on $\Gamma_{\eta c_1 2^{-j-1}}$, we are through.

Proposition 3.12. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition, $0 < p, q < \infty$ and τ an admissible sequence. Assume that*

$$(3.18) \quad \tau^{-1} \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p} \notin \ell_\infty.$$

Then $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$, therefore

$$(3.19) \quad \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{cannot exist.}$$

Proof. By standard reasoning we conclude from (3.18) that there exists a divergent subsequence of $\tau^{-1} \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$. More precisely, there is a strictly increasing sequence $(j_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$(3.20) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{j_k} h_{j_k}^{-\frac{1}{p}} 2^{-j_k \frac{n}{p}} = 0.$$

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, consider an optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j_k}}$, in the sense of Remark 3.10, and follow our Discussions 3.6 and 3.11 with I_k from (3.14) given by

$$I_k = \{(j, m) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}^n : j = j_k, Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)\}$$

(that is, $J_k = \{j_k\}$ and $M_j = M_{j_k} = \{m \in \mathbb{Z}^n : Q_{j_k m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j_k)\}$), $\varphi_{(j,m)} = \varphi_{j_m}$ and $\lambda_{(j,m)} = 1$. Due to Remark 2.22, this fits nicely into Discussions 3.6 and 3.11, in particular (3.11), (3.15) and (3.16) hold. It then follows, specially from (3.17), that the quasi-norm of the sum in (3.12) (or of an alternative similar sum, as discussed in Discussion 3.11 apropos of the consideration of moment conditions) is

$$\begin{aligned} &\lesssim \left(\sum_{Q_{j_k m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j_k)} \tau_{j_k}^p 2^{-j_k n} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \tau_{j_k} 2^{-j_k \frac{n}{p}} (\#\mathcal{Q}(j_k))^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &\sim \tau_{j_k} 2^{-j_k \frac{n}{p}} h_{j_k}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} 0, \end{aligned}$$

where we have also used Remark 3.9 and (3.20). Thus (3.12) holds (possibly with an alternative similar sum if moment conditions are required, as mentioned above) and Discussion 3.6 then concludes the proof. \square

Remark 3.13. The porosity condition was only used in the proof above to guarantee that atoms with appropriate moment conditions can be considered. Thus the proposition holds without assuming porosity of Γ as long as L can be taken equal to -1 in the atomic representation theorem for $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (cf. Proposition 2.20 with τ instead of σ).

The next result shows that when $p < q$ we can conclude as in the preceding proposition with an hypothesis weaker than (3.18).

Proposition 3.14. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition, $0 < p < q < \infty$, τ admissible. Assume that*

$$(3.21) \quad \limsup \tau^{-1} h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p} > 0.$$

Then $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$, therefore

$$(3.22) \quad \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{cannot exist.}$$

Proof. Denote $\sigma := \tau h^{-1/p}(n)^{-1/p}$. From (3.21) it follows the existence of a constant $c > 0$ and a strictly increasing sequence $(j_\ell)_{\ell \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$(3.23) \quad \sigma_{j_\ell}^{-1} \geq c, \quad \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $k_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that

$$(3.24) \quad \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{k+1} \cdots + \frac{1}{k_2} \geq 2,$$

which clearly exists. Then choose $j(k)$ large enough in order that it is possible to consider an optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j(k)}}$ in the sense of Remark 3.10 with a number $N_{j(k)}$ of cubes such that $k_2^{-1} N_{j(k)} \geq 2$. Again, this is clearly possible, because of $N_{j(k)} \sim h_{j(k)}^{-1}$ (cf. Lemma 3.8) and properties of gauge

functions (cf. Definition 2.1). Actually, we shall also require that $j(k)$ be chosen in such a way it coincides with one of the j_ℓ 's above, which is also possible.

Hence, for $i = k, k+1, \dots, k_2$, $\lfloor i^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor > i^{-1}N_{j(k)} - 1 \geq \frac{1}{2}i^{-1}N_{j(k)}$ and therefore, using (3.24),

$$\lfloor k^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor + \lfloor (k+1)^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor + \dots + \lfloor k_2^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor \geq N_{j(k)}.$$

Let $k_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ be the smallest number such that

$$(3.25) \quad \lfloor k^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor + \lfloor (k+1)^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor + \dots + \lfloor k_1^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor \geq N_{j(k)}.$$

On the other hand, following Lemma 3.8 and Discussion 3.6,

$$(3.26) \quad \sum_{Q_{j(k)m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j(k))} \varphi_{j(k)m} \varphi = \varphi \quad \text{on } \Gamma_{2^{-j(k)}}.$$

Now we associate the terms of this sum in the following way: first consider the m 's such that $Q_{j(k)m}$ are grid subcubes of the first $\lfloor k^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor$ cubes of the optimal cover above; next consider the m 's such that $Q_{j(k)m}$ are grid subcubes of the following $\lfloor (k+1)^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor$ cubes of the same cover. And so on until the consideration of the m 's such that $Q_{j(k)m}$ are grid subcubes of the at most $\lfloor k_1^{-1}N_{j(k)} \rfloor$ cubes of the optimal cover. This process certainly leads to repetition of grid cubes, so, in order not to affect the sum above we make the convention that $\varphi_{j(k)m}$ is replaced by zero any time it corresponds to a grid cube that has already been considered before. That is, $\varphi_{j(k)m}$ is replaced by $\tilde{\varphi}_{j(k)m}$ which can either be $\varphi_{j(k)m}$ or zero, according to what was just explained.

Denote by ψ_i , $i = k, k+1, \dots, k_1$, the sum of the $\tilde{\varphi}_{j(k)m}$'s corresponding to each association made above, so that the sum in (3.26) can be written as

$$(3.27) \quad \sum_{i=k}^{k_1} \psi_i \varphi,$$

which, of course, still equals φ on $\Gamma_{2^{-j(k)}}$.

The next thing to do is to choose, for each $i = k+1, \dots, k_1$, $j(i)$ in such a way that

$$(3.28) \quad j(k) < j(k+1) < \dots < j(k_1)$$

and, moreover, each $j(i)$ coincides with one of the j_ℓ 's used to get (3.23). Then consider optimal covers of $\Gamma_{2^{-j(i)}}$ and the sum

$$(3.29) \quad \sum_{i=k}^{k_1} \sum_{Q_{j(i)m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j(i))} \varphi_{j(i)m} \psi_i \varphi,$$

which, by Lemma 3.8 and (3.28), equals φ on $\Gamma_{2^{-j(k_1)}}$. We know, following Remark 3.9, that each inner sum above has $\sim h_{j(i)}^{-1}$ terms. However, because

of the product structure of the latter and the support of each ψ_i , actually only a smaller number of terms are non-zero. We claim that the latter number is $\lesssim i^{-1}h_{j(i)}^{-1}$. This can be seen in the following way: for fixed $i = k, k+1, \dots, k_1$, only the $\varphi_{j(i)m}$ such that

$$\text{supp } \varphi_{j(i)m} \cap \text{supp } \psi_i \neq \emptyset$$

are of interest; notice that this implies that the cubes of the optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j(i)}}$ which contain the grid cubes at which such functions $\varphi_{j(i)m}$ are located are contained in a neighbourhood of radius $\sim 2^{-j(i)}$ of $\text{supp } \psi_i$ which, in turn, is contained in the union of neighbourhoods of radius $\sim 2^{-j(k)}$ of the $\lesssim i^{-1}h_{j(k)}^{-1}$ cubes of the optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j(k)}}$ which were used to form ψ_i ; since these union measures $\lesssim i^{-1}h_{j(k)}^{-1}h_{j(k)}$, that is, $\lesssim i^{-1}$, and the cubes of the optimal cover of $\Gamma_{2^{-j(i)}}$ contain disjoint balls of radius $\sim 2^{-j(i)}$, so measuring $\sim h_{j(i)}$ each, the number of such cubes that are being considered here must be $\lesssim i^{-1}h_{j(i)}^{-1}$; since, clearly, the same estimate holds for the family of grid subcubes of such cubes, our claim is proved.

We write then (3.29) in the form

$$(3.30) \quad \sum_{i=k}^{k_1} \sum'_{Q_{j(i)m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j(i))} \varphi_{j(i)m} \psi_i \varphi,$$

where the prime over the sum means that we are in fact taking only $\lesssim i^{-1}h_{j(i)}^{-1}$ of the terms, according to the discussion above, without changing the value of (3.29).

Now we remark that, for $i = k, k+1, \dots, k_1$,

$$\text{supp } \varphi_{j(i)m} \psi_i \subset \text{supp } \varphi_{j(i)m} \subset \frac{3}{2} Q_{j(i)m}$$

and, due to Leibniz formula, (3.28) and (2.41), for a fixed $K \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a positive constant c_K such that

$$|D^\gamma(\varphi_{j(i)m} \psi_i)(x)| \leq c_K 2^{j(i)|\gamma|}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \gamma \in \mathbb{N}_0^n \text{ with } |\gamma| \leq K.$$

That is, (3.11), (3.15) and (3.16) hold for $\lambda_r = \lambda_{(j(i),m)} = 1$ and $\varphi_r = \varphi_{(j(i),m)} = \varphi_{j(i)m} \psi_i$ with $r = (j(i), m)$ belonging to a set I_k as in (3.14), though more involved to describe: here we have $J_k = \{j(k), j(k+1), \dots, j(k_1)\}$ and each $M_{j(i)}$, with $i = k, k+1, \dots, k_1$, is the set of m 's considered in the corresponding inner sum in (3.30).

It then follows, specially from (3.17), that the quasi-norm of the sum in (3.12) (or of an alternative similar sum, as discussed in Discussion 3.11

apropos of the consideration of moment conditions) is

$$\begin{aligned}
&\lesssim \left(\sum_{i=k}^{k_1} \left(\sum_{Q_{j(i)m} \in \mathcal{Q}(j(i))} \tau_{j(i)}^p 2^{-j(i)n} \right)^{q/p} \right)^{1/q} \\
&\lesssim \left(\sum_{i=k}^{k_1} \tau_{j(i)}^q 2^{-j(i)n \frac{q}{p}} i^{-\frac{q}{p}} h_{j(i)}^{-\frac{q}{p}} \right)^{1/q} \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=k}^{k_1} i^{-\frac{q}{p}} \sigma_{j(i)}^q \right)^{1/q} \\
&\lesssim \left(\sum_{i=k}^{\infty} i^{-\frac{q}{p}} \right)^{1/q},
\end{aligned}$$

the last estimate being a consequence of (3.23) and the choice of the $j(i)$ in (3.28).

Using now the hypothesis $0 < p < q < \infty$, we have that the last expression above tends to zero when k tends to infinity, so that the result follows from Discussion 3.6. \square

Remark 3.15. An observation corresponding to the one made in Remark 3.13 holds also here.

The next result shows that when $1 < q$ we can also conclude as in Proposition 3.12 with an hypothesis weaker than (3.18).

Proposition 3.16. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition, $1 < q < \infty$, τ admissible. Assume that*

$$(3.31) \quad \tau^{-1} \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p} \notin \ell_{q'}.$$

Then $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$, therefore

$$\mathrm{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{cannot exist.}$$

Proof. Denote $\sigma := \tau \mathbf{h}^{-1/p}(n)^{-1/p}$. From (3.31) it follows the existence of some strictly increasing sequence $(j_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$(3.32) \quad \sum_{l=j_k}^{j_{k+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \geq 1, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, consider optimal covers of $\Gamma_{2^{-i}}$, in the sense of Remark 3.10, for all $i = j_\nu, j_\nu + 1, \dots, j_{\nu+1} - 1$ and all $\nu = 1, \dots, k$, and follow our Discussions 3.6 and 3.11 with I_k from (3.14) defined such that $J_k = \{j \in$

$\mathbb{N} : \exists \nu = 1, \dots, k : j \in \{j_\nu, j_\nu + 1, \dots, j_{\nu+1} - 1\}$ and $M_j = \{m \in \mathbb{Z}^n : Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)\}$, $\varphi_{(j,m)} = \varphi_{jm}$ and

$$(3.33) \quad \lambda_{(j,m)} = \frac{\sigma_j^{-q'}}{k} \left(\sum_{l=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \right)^{-1}, \quad j = j_\nu, \dots, j_{\nu+1} - 1, \quad \nu = 1, \dots, k.$$

Due to Remark 2.22, this fits nicely into Discussions 3.6 and 3.11. In particular, (3.15) and (3.16) immediately hold. As to (3.11), we have, for $x \in \Gamma_{2^{-j_{k+1}}}$, that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=j_1}^{j_{k+1}-1} \sum_{Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)} \lambda_{(j,m)} \varphi_{(j,m)}(x) \varphi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\nu=1}^k \sum_{j=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_j^{-q'} \left(\sum_{l=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \right)^{-1} \sum_{Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)} \varphi_{jm}(x) \varphi(x) \\ &= \frac{\varphi(x)}{k} \sum_{\nu=1}^k \sum_{j=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_j^{-q'} \left(\sum_{l=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \right)^{-1} = \varphi(x). \end{aligned}$$

It then follows, specially from (3.17), that the quasi-norm of the sum in (3.12) (or of an alternative similar sum, as discussed in Discussion 3.11 apropos of the consideration of moment conditions) is

$$\begin{aligned} & \lesssim \left(\sum_{j=j_1}^{j_{k+1}-1} \left(\sum_{Q_{jm} \in \mathcal{Q}(j)} |\lambda_{(j,m)} \tau_j 2^{-j \frac{n}{p}}|^p \right)^{\frac{q}{p}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left(\sum_{j=j_1}^{j_{k+1}-1} \lambda_{(j,m)}^q \tau_j^q 2^{-j \frac{n}{p} q} (\#\mathcal{Q}(j))^{\frac{q}{p}} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\sim \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^k \sum_{j=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \frac{\sigma_j^{-q'q}}{k} \left(\sum_{l=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \right)^{-q} \sigma_j^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^k \left(\sum_{l=j_\nu}^{j_{\nu+1}-1} \sigma_l^{-q'} \right)^{1-q} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k} \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^k 1 \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} = k^{-\frac{1}{q'}} \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0, \end{aligned}$$

since $q > 1$, where we have also used Remark 3.9, (3.33) and (3.32). Thus (3.12) holds (possibly with an alternative similar sum if moment conditions are required, as mentioned above) and Discussion 3.6 then concludes the proof. \square

Remark 3.17. An observation corresponding to the one made in Remark 3.13 holds also here.

Theorem 3.18. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition, σ an admissible sequence and let either $1 \leq p < \infty$, $0 < q < \infty$, or $0 < q \leq p < 1$. Then **either***

$$(i) \quad \mathbb{B}_{p,q}^\sigma(\Gamma) = \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{exists}$$

or

$$(ii) \quad \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) \quad \text{is dense in} \quad B_{p,q}^{\sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

and, therefore, $\text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^{\sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ cannot exist.

Proof. Either (3.6) holds or not. If it holds, then from Definition 3.1 it follows that (i) above holds. If (3.6) fails, then, with $\tau := \sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$,

$$\tau^{-1} h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p} \notin \ell_{q'},$$

therefore, from Propositions 3.12 (in the case $0 < q \leq 1$) and 3.16 (in the case $1 < q < \infty$), (ii) above holds. \square

Remark 3.19. The only use of the porosity condition in the proof above is in guaranteeing the existence of suitable atoms when moment conditions for these are required. Therefore the result of the theorem above holds without assuming porosity of Γ whenever the atomic representation of $B_{p,q}^{\sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ does not require atoms with moment conditions.

Remark 3.20. From the proof above it also follows that, under the conditions of the theorem, (i) is equivalent to (3.6), that is, $\sigma^{-1} \in \ell_{q'}$.

Conjecture 3.21. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition, σ an admissible sequence and $0 < p < 1$, $0 < p < q < \infty$. Define v_p by the identity $\frac{1}{v_p} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}$. With the extra assumption*

$$(3.34) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} h_j \sigma_j^{v_p} = 0$$

the alternative in the conclusion of the theorem above also holds. More precisely, assertion (i) holds iff assertion (ii) does not hold iff

$$(3.35) \quad \sigma^{-1} \in \ell_{v_p}.$$

We discuss a little bit this conjecture. Clearly, if (3.35) holds then Definition 3.1 guarantees that (i) holds, and therefore (ii) does not, even without the extra assumption (3.34).

On the other hand, Proposition 3.14, with $\tau := \sigma h^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$, guarantees that at least in the special subcase of $\sigma^{-1} \notin \ell_{v_p}$ given by $\limsup \sigma^{-1} > 0$ (ii) holds, and therefore (i) does not.

In other words, we can get the alternative in the conclusion of the theorem above in the case $0 < p < 1$, $0 < p < q < \infty$ if instead of the extra assumption (3.34) we assume that $\limsup \sigma^{-1} > 0$. The drawback of this restriction is that it immediately implies that (3.35) never holds, so (3.35) is not a real alternative under that extra assumption. From this point of view, (3.34) is more interesting. Notice also that, in order that this conjecture does not contradict Definition 3.1, under (3.34) it must be true that (3.35) holds whenever any of the conditions (3.7) does. In fact, by standard comparison criteria for series it is easy to see directly that this is indeed the case (take also into account that the case $v_r = \infty$ in the conditions (3.7) never holds in presence of (3.34)).

Remark 3.22. It is worth noticing that in the case when Γ is a d -set with $0 < d < n$, (3.34) holds whenever (3.35) fails, so in that setting, and by the above discussion, there is no need to impose the extra condition (3.34), the conjecture then turning out to be indeed a known result (cf. [Tr7, (1.5)]). However, for general h -sets we cannot dispense with an extra assumption (such as (3.34)), as the Conjecture above then fails, at least in the part of the equivalence with (3.35). We give a class of examples where this is the case:

Consider $h(r) = (1 + |\log r|)^b$, $r \in (0, 1]$, for any given $b \in (-1, 0)$, recall (2.13) and the discussion afterwards. Let $0 < p < 1$ and $0 < p < q < \infty$. Given any $\kappa \in (-b(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}) + (1 + b)\frac{1}{q}, \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}]$, consider $\sigma = ((1 + j)^\kappa)_j$. It is easy to see that, though (3.35) fails, by Definition 3.1(ii) with $r = \min\{q, 1\}$ (i) of the theorem above holds, i.e., the trace exists (and therefore the corresponding assertion (ii) fails, as was discussed in the beginning of Section 3.2).

Nevertheless, our conjecture as stated above resists this class of counterexamples: as is easily seen, for such a class the assumption (3.34) is violated.

3.3 Dichotomy results

We combine our results from the previous subsections and deal with the so-called *dichotomy* of trace spaces. First we briefly describe the idea.

Recall that $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in all spaces $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $0 < p, q < \infty$. So removing from \mathbb{R}^n only ‘small enough’ Γ one can ask whether (still)

$$(3.36) \quad \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) \text{ is dense in } B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Conversely, we have the affirmative trace results mentioned in Section 3.1, but one can also ask for what (‘thick enough’) Γ

$$(3.37) \quad \text{there exists a trace of } B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ in } L_p(\Gamma)$$

(for sufficiently high smoothness and q -regularity). Though these questions may arise independently, it is at least clear that whenever $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is

dense in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then there cannot exist a trace according to (3.2); see our discussion at the beginning of Section 3.2 and [Tr7] for the corresponding argument in the classical case.

Remark 3.23. It is not always true that one really has an alternative in the sense that *either* there is a trace *or* $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Triebel studied such questions in [Tr7] for spaces of type $B_{p,q}^s$ and described an example of a set Γ where a gap remains: traces can only exist for spaces $B_{p,q}^s$ with smoothness $s \geq s_0$, whereas density requires $s \leq s_1$ and $s_1 < s_0$.

However, if one obtains an alternative between (3.36) and (3.37), then following Triebel in [Tr7] we call this phenomenon *dichotomy*. First we recall this notion for spaces of type $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and point out necessary modifications for our setting afterwards. Let

$$(3.38) \quad \text{tr}_\Gamma : B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L_p(\Gamma)$$

be the trace operator defined by completion from the pointwise trace according to (3.2), and

$$(3.39) \quad B_p(\mathbb{R}^n) = \{B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n) : 0 < q < \infty, s \in \mathbb{R}\}, \quad 0 < p < \infty.$$

Definition 3.24. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $0 < p < \infty$. The *dichotomy* of the scale $B_p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with respect to $L_p(\Gamma)$, denoted by $\mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma))$, is defined by

$$(3.40) \quad \mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = (s_\Gamma, q_\Gamma), \quad s_\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}, \quad 0 < q_\Gamma < \infty,$$

if

$$(3.41) \quad \text{(i) } \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ exists for } \begin{cases} s > s_\Gamma, & 0 < q < \infty, \\ s = s_\Gamma, & 0 < q \leq q_\Gamma, \end{cases}$$

and

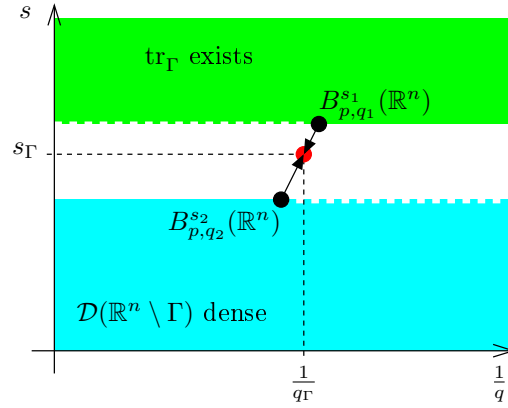
$$(3.42) \quad \text{(ii) } \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) \text{ is dense in } B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ for } \begin{cases} s = s_\Gamma, & q_\Gamma < q < \infty, \\ s < s_\Gamma, & 0 < q < \infty. \end{cases}$$

Remark 3.25. The notion applies to spaces of type $F_{p,q}^s$ in a similar way, cf. [Tr7]. Then one has to define the borderline cases $q_\Gamma = 0$ and $q_\Gamma = \infty$, too. But this will not be needed at the moment in our setting.

We briefly explain why it is reasonable to look for the ‘breaking point’ (s_Γ, q_Γ) . In the diagram below we sketch this situation, where spaces of type $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ are indicated by their parameters $(\frac{1}{q}, s)$ (while p is always assumed

to be fixed). Assume that $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is dense in some space $B_{p,q_2}^{s_2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Then, since $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in all spaces $B_{p,u}^t(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we immediately obtain that $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma)$ is also dense in all spaces $B_{p,u}^t(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in which $B_{p,q_2}^{s_2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is continuously embedded (the shaded area left and below of $(\frac{1}{q_2}, s_2)$ referring to $B_{p,q_2}^{s_2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in the diagram). This explains why we look for the largest possible s_2 and smallest possible q_2 in (3.42). Conversely, if the trace exists for some space $B_{p,q_1}^{s_1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then it exists likewise for all spaces which embed continuously into $B_{p,q_1}^{s_1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (the shaded area right and above of $(\frac{1}{q_1}, s_1)$ referring to $B_{p,q_1}^{s_1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in the diagram); hence we now search for the smallest possible s_1 and largest possible q_1 in (3.41). Dichotomy in the above-defined sense happens, if the two ‘extremal’ points merge, that is, the common breaking point $(\frac{1}{q_\Gamma}, s_\Gamma)$ in the diagram exists.



Then we denote the couple of parameters (s_Γ, q_Γ) by $\mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma))$.

In [Tr8, Sect. 6.4.3] Triebel mentioned already, that it might be more reasonable in general to exclude the limiting case $q = q_\Gamma$ in (3.41) or shift it to (3.42). But as will turn out below, (also) in our context the breaking point $q = q_\Gamma$ is always on the trace side.

Now we collect what is known in the situation of spaces $B_{p,q}^s$ for hyperplanes $\Gamma = \mathbb{R}^m$ or d -sets Γ , $0 < d < n$.

Proposition 3.26. *Let $0 < p < \infty$.*

(i) *Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \leq n - 1$. Then*

$$\mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\mathbb{R}^m)) = \left(\frac{n-m}{p}, \min\{p, 1\} \right).$$

(ii) *Let Γ be a compact d -set, $0 < d < n$. Then*

$$\mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = \left(\frac{n-d}{p}, \min\{p, 1\} \right).$$

Remark 3.27. The result (i) is proved in this explicit form in [Tr7], see also [Tr8, Cor. 6.69] and [Sch1]. The second part (ii) can be found in [Tr7] and [Tr8, Thm. 6.68] (with forerunners in [Tr4, Thm. 17.6] and [Tr5, Prop. 19.5]). As for the classical case of a bounded C^∞ domain Ω in \mathbb{R}^n with boundary $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ (referring to $d = n - 1$), $1 < p < \infty$, $1 \leq q < \infty$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, the situation (whether $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ is dense in $B_{p,q}^s(\Omega)$) is known for long, cf. [Tr1, Thm. 4.7.1], even in a more general setting, we refer to [Sch2]. Moreover, we dealt with dichotomy questions for weighted spaces corresponding to (ii) in [Pi, Ha].

More precisely, when Γ is again a compact d -set, $0 < d < n$, $0 < p < \infty$, and the weight $w_{\varkappa, \Gamma}$ is given by

$$w_{\varkappa, \Gamma}(x) = \begin{cases} \text{dist}(x, \Gamma)^\varkappa, & \text{if } \text{dist}(x, \Gamma) \leq 1, \\ 1, & \text{if } \text{dist}(x, \Gamma) \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

with $\varkappa > -(n - d)$, then

$$(3.43) \quad \mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n, w_{\varkappa, \Gamma}), L_p(\Gamma)) = \left(\frac{n - d + \varkappa}{p}, \min\{p, 1\} \right).$$

In all the cases mentioned above there are parallel results for F -spaces, too.

We return to our setting to study traces of $B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$ on fractal h -sets. Obviously, definitions (3.39)–(3.42) have to be adapted now. The following extension seems appropriate. (Recall that we put $v = \infty$ if $\frac{1}{v} = 0$.)

Definition 3.28. Let Γ be a porous h -set, and

$$(3.44) \quad B_p(\mathbb{R}^n) = \{B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) : 0 < q < \infty, \tau \text{ admissible}\}, \quad 0 < p < \infty.$$

Then the *dichotomy* of the scale $B_p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with respect to $L_p(\Gamma)$ is defined by

$$(3.45) \quad \mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = (\tau_\Gamma, q_\Gamma),$$

if τ_Γ is admissible, $0 < q_\Gamma < \infty$, and

$$(3.46) \quad \text{(i)} \quad \text{tr}_\Gamma B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ exists for } \tau^{-1}\tau_\Gamma \in \ell_v, \text{ where } \frac{1}{v} = \left(\frac{1}{q_\Gamma} - \frac{1}{q} \right)_+,$$

and

$$(3.47) \quad \text{(ii)} \quad \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma) \text{ is dense in } B_{p,q}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ for } \tau^{-1}\tau_\Gamma \notin \ell_v.$$

Remark 3.29. One immediately verifies that (3.44)–(3.47) with $h(r) = r^d$, $\tau = (s)$ for $s \in \mathbb{R}$, and $0 < p < \infty$, $0 < q < \infty$, coincides with (3.39)–(3.42), that is, the notion is extended (and we may thus and in this sense retain the same symbols in a slight abuse of notation). Using the continuous embedding

$$(3.48) \quad B_{p,q_1}^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n) \hookrightarrow B_{p,q_2}^\tau(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

for $\sigma^{-1}\tau \in \ell_{q^*}$ with $\frac{1}{q^*} = \left(\frac{1}{q_2} - \frac{1}{q_1} \right)_+$, cf. [CaF, Thm. 3.7], we can argue as in Remark 3.25 to motivate the definition.

Part of the results contained in Theorem 3.18 and Remark 3.20 can then be rephrased in terms of this notion of dichotomy in the following way.

Corollary 3.30. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition and $1 \leq p < \infty$. Then*

$$\mathbb{D}(B_p(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = (\mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}, 1).$$

Remark 3.31. Again, with the special setting $h(r) = r^d$, $\tau = (s)$, Corollary 3.30 coincides with Proposition 3.26(ii) for $p \geq 1$. So one might expect some parallel result with $q_\Gamma = p$ for $0 < p < 1$, see also (3.43). However, we are not yet able to (dis)prove this claim. More precisely, if $0 < p < 1$ and $p < q < \infty$, (3.46) is satisfied with $\tau_\Gamma = \mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}$ and $q_\Gamma = p$, see (3.7). The gap that remains at the moment is to confirm (3.47) in that case (possibly with some additional assumptions), recall Conjecture 3.21 and the discussion afterwards.

But we can obtain some weaker version as follows. Introducing a notion of dichotomy where also q can be fixed beforehand, hence adapting accordingly (3.44), (3.45) and denoting the new versions respectively by $B_{p,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $\mathbb{D}(B_{p,q}(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = (\tau_\Gamma, q_\Gamma)$, while (3.46) and (3.47) are kept unchanged, we can also cast the case $0 < q \leq p < 1$ of Theorem 3.18 and Remark 3.20 in terms of dichotomy.

Corollary 3.32. *Let Γ be an h -set satisfying the porosity condition and $0 < q \leq p < 1$. Then*

$$\mathbb{D}(B_{p,q}(\mathbb{R}^n), L_p(\Gamma)) = (\mathbf{h}^{1/p}(n)^{1/p}, p).$$

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