

ON INTEGRAL OPERATORS OF BERGMAN TYPE
ON THE UNIT BALL OF \mathbb{R}^n

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We prove the boundedness of Bergman type integral operators in mixed norm spaces over the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^n . Bounded harmonic projections are found in the mixed norm and Lipschitz spaces. Corresponding Forelli–Rudin type theorems are proved.

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Introduction. Let $B = B_n$ be an open unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n ($n \geq 2$) and $S = \partial B$ be its boundary in unit sphere. The integral means of order p of a function $f(x) = f(r\zeta)$ on the sphere $|x| = r$ are denoted by

$$M_p(f; r) := \|f(r \cdot)\|_{L^p(S; d\sigma)}, \quad 0 \leq r < 1, \quad 0 < p \leq \infty,$$

where $d\sigma$ is the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional area-surface Lebesgue measure on S normalized, so that $\sigma(S) = 1$. The set of all (real) harmonic functions in the unit ball B is denoted by $h(B)$. Let dV be the Lebesgue volume measure on B normalized, so that $V(B) = 1$. In the polar coordinates we have $dV(x) = nr^{n-1} dr d\sigma(\zeta)$.

By the definition, the mixed norm space $L(p, q, \alpha)$ ($0 < p, q \leq \infty, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$) is the set of those functions $f(x)$ measurable in the unit ball B , for which the quasi-norm

$$\|f\|_{L(p, q, \alpha)} := \begin{cases} \left(\int_0^1 (1-r)^{\alpha q-1} M_p^q(f; r) dr \right)^{1/q}, & 0 < q < \infty, \\ \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{0 < r < 1} (1-r)^\alpha M_p(f; r), & q = \infty, \end{cases}$$

is finite. For the subspace of $L(p, q, \alpha)$ consisting of harmonic functions let

$$h(p, q, \alpha) := h(B) \cap L(p, q, \alpha).$$

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The mixed norm spaces $h(p, q, \alpha)$ and their analogues consisting of holomorphic, pluriharmonic or harmonic functions in the disc, the ball in \mathbb{C}^n or \mathbb{R}^n are extensively discussed in the last three decades. The mixed norm spaces of holomorphic functions in the unit disc were introduced by Hardy and Littlewood [1,2] and developed later by Flett [3]. For $p = q < \infty$ the spaces $h(p, q, \alpha)$ coincide with weighted Bergman spaces, see [4, 5], while for $q = \infty$ these spaces are referred to as weighted Hardy spaces. The spaces $h(p, p, \alpha), h(p, q, \alpha)$ on the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n were studied in [6–16], while the space $h(p, q, \alpha)$ consisting of n -harmonic functions on a polydisc in \mathbb{C}^n were studied in [17, 18].

In the recent paper we established a reproducing integral formula of Poisson–Bergman type for functions in $h(p, q, \alpha)$ [16].

Theorem A. Let $\alpha > 0$ and $u(x) \in h(p, q, \alpha)$ be an arbitrary function. If either $0 < p, q \leq \infty, \beta > \max\{\alpha + (n-1)(1/p-1), \alpha\}$ or $1 \leq p \leq \infty, 0 < q \leq 1, \beta \geq \alpha$, then

$$u(x) = \frac{2}{n\Gamma(\beta)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} P_\beta(x, y) u(y) dV(y), \quad x \in B, \quad (1)$$

where P_β is the Poisson–Bergman type kernel defined below (see Sec. 2).

Integral Eq. (1) induces a linear integral operator of Bergman type

$$T_\beta(u)(x) := \frac{2}{n\Gamma(\beta)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} P_\beta(x, y) u(y) dV(y), \quad x \in B. \quad (2)$$

In fact, Theorem A asserts that operator T_β is the identity map on $h(p, q, \alpha)$ for suitable parameters, that is, $T_\beta(u) = u, \forall u \in h(p, q, \alpha)$.

Along with the operator T_β , define more general operators of Bergman type:

$$(T_{\beta, \lambda} f)(x) := \frac{2(1 - |x|^2)^\lambda}{n\Gamma(\beta + \lambda)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} P_{\beta+\lambda}(x, y) f(y) dV(y),$$

$$(S_{\beta, \lambda} f)(x) := \frac{2(1 - |x|^2)^\lambda}{n\Gamma(\beta + \lambda)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} |P_{\beta+\lambda}(x, y)| f(y) dV(y).$$

Note that $T_{\beta, 0} \equiv T_\beta$.

It is natural here to ask whether these operators are bounded in mixed norm spaces.

Theorem 1. If $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty, \beta > \alpha > -\lambda$, then the operators $T_{\beta, \lambda}, S_{\beta, \lambda}$ continuously map the space $L(p, q, \alpha)$ into itself:

$$T_{\beta, \lambda}, S_{\beta, \lambda} : L(p, q, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\text{into}} L(p, q, \alpha), \quad (3)$$

that is,

$$\|T_{\beta, \lambda} f\|_{L(p, q, \alpha)} \leq C \|f\|_{L(p, q, \alpha)}, \quad f \in L(p, q, \alpha), \quad (4)$$

$$\|S_{\beta, \lambda} f\|_{L(p, q, \alpha)} \leq C \|f\|_{L(p, q, \alpha)}, \quad f \in L(p, q, \alpha), \quad (5)$$

where $C = C(p, q, \alpha, \beta, \lambda)$ is a positive constant depending only on the indicated parameters. Moreover, the operator $T_{\beta, 0}$ continuously projects $L(p, q, \alpha)$ onto $h(p, q, \alpha)$:

$$T_{\beta, 0} : L(p, q, \alpha) \xrightarrow{\text{onto}} h(p, q, \alpha). \quad (6)$$

Remark 1. Theorem 1 is an analogue of the well-known Forelli–Rudin theorem in Bergman spaces. Various generalizations for holomorphic and harmonic functions can also be found in [4–10, 17].

Preliminaries and Proof of Theorem 1. Throughout the paper, we always assume $x = r\zeta$, $y = \rho\eta$, $0 \leq r, \rho < 1$, $\zeta, \eta \in S$, and the letters $C(\alpha, \beta, \dots)$, C_α etc. stand for different positive constants depending only on the indicated parameters.

Definition 1. (Riemann–Liouville fractional integral and derivative for \mathbb{R}^2). For a function $f(r)$ of one variable $r \in [0, 1)$, let

$$D^{-\alpha}f(r) := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^r (r-t)^{\alpha-1} f(t) dt = \frac{r^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^1 (1-t)^{\alpha-1} f(tr) dt,$$

$$D^m f(r) := \left(\frac{d}{dr}\right)^m f(r), \quad D^\alpha f(r) := D^{-(m-\alpha)} D^m f(r),$$

where $0 \leq r < 1$, $\alpha > 0$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $m \geq 0$, $m-1 < \alpha \leq m$.

Definition 2. (Fractional integral and derivative for \mathbb{R}^n , $n \geq 2$).

Given a function $f(x)$ in the unit ball B , let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_n^{-\alpha} f(x) &:= r^{-(\alpha+n/2-1)} D^{-\alpha} \left\{ r^{n/2-1} f(x) \right\} = \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^1 (1-t)^{\alpha-1} f(tx) t^{n/2-1} dt, \\ \mathcal{D}_n^\alpha f(x) &:= r^{-(n/2-1)} D^\alpha \left\{ r^{\alpha+n/2-1} f(x) \right\}, \quad r = |x|. \end{aligned}$$

This version of the fractional derivative in \mathbb{R}^n is introduced in [16] and makes it possible to apply it to the extended Poisson kernel in B [13]

$$P(x, y) \equiv P_0(x, y) := \frac{1 - |x|^2 |y|^2}{(1 - 2x \cdot y + |x|^2 |y|^2)^{n/2}}, \quad x \in B, y \in \bar{B},$$

in order to obtain the Poisson–Bergman type kernel P_β in B mentioned in Theorem A. Here $x \cdot y$ means the Euclidean inner product.

Definition 3. (Poisson–Bergman type kernel in B).

$$P_\alpha(x, y) := \mathcal{D}_n^\alpha P(x, y) \quad x, y \in B, \quad \alpha \geq 0. \quad (7)$$

Similar kernels are defined in [11] (for integer α), [4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12].

Note that Poisson–Bergman type kernel $P_\beta(x, y)$ is a harmonic function with respect to both x and y .

Lemma 1. For any $\beta > \alpha > 0$ there hold the inequalities

$$\int_S \frac{d\sigma(\xi)}{|\xi - x|^{\alpha+n-1}} \leq C(\alpha, n) \frac{1}{(1 - |x|)^\alpha}, \quad x \in B, \quad (8)$$

$$\int_0^1 \frac{(1-t)^{\alpha-1}}{(1-rt)^\beta} dt \leq C(\alpha, \beta) \frac{1}{(1-r)^{\beta-\alpha}}, \quad 0 \leq r < 1, \quad (9)$$

$$\int_B \frac{(1-|y|)^{\alpha-1}}{|\zeta - ry|^{\beta+n-1}} dV(y) \leq C(\alpha, \beta, n) \frac{1}{(1-|x|)^{\beta-\alpha}}, \quad x = r\zeta \in B. \quad (10)$$

The estimates of Lemma 1 are well known and can be found in [7, 12, 14].

We also need the next well-known inequality (see, e.g., [3]).

Lemma 2. (Hardy's inequality). If $1 \leq p < \infty$, $\beta > -1$, $g(r) \geq 0$, then

$$\int_0^1 (1-r)^\beta \left(\int_0^r g(t) dt \right)^p dr \leq C \int_0^1 (1-r)^{\beta+p} g^p(r) dr,$$

where the constant $C = C(p, \beta) > 0$ depends only on p and β .

Proof of Theorem 1. Let $f(x) \in L(p, q, \alpha)$ be an arbitrary function. It suffices to prove only (5).

We need an estimate for the Poisson–Bergman type kernel P_β (see, e.g., [7, 8, 12, 14])

$$|P_\alpha(x, y)| \leq \frac{C(\alpha, n)}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\alpha+n-1}}, \quad x = r\zeta, \quad y = \rho\eta, \quad \alpha \geq 0,$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |(S_{\beta, \lambda} f)(x)| &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - |x|^2)^\lambda \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} |P_{\beta+\lambda}(x, y)| |f(y)| dV(y) \leq \\ &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - |x|^2)^\lambda \int_B \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\beta+\lambda+n-1}} |f(y)| \rho^{n-1} d\rho d\sigma(\eta). \end{aligned}$$

Replace here x by Qx , where Q is an arbitrary orthogonal linear transformation $Q: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, that is, $|Qx| = |x|$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Recall that the measure σ is invariant under rotations, meaning $\sigma(Q(G)) = \sigma(G)$ for every Borel set $G \subset S$ and every orthogonal transformation Q . Applying also the change $\eta \mapsto Q\eta$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} |(S_{\beta, \lambda} f)(Qx)| &\leq \\ &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - |Qx|^2)^\lambda \int_B \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{|\rho Qx - Q\eta|^{\beta+\lambda+n-1}} |f(\rho Q\eta)| \rho^{n-1} d\rho d\sigma(\eta) = \\ &= C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - |x|^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \int_S \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\beta+\lambda+n-1}} |f(\rho Q\eta)| \rho^{n-1} d\rho d\sigma(\eta). \end{aligned}$$

Further, we use Minkowski's inequality in the continuous form, Lemma 1 and the identity

$$M_p(F; |z|) = \left(\int |F(Qz)|^p dQ \right)^{1/p}, \quad z \in B,$$

where the integral is taken over the orthogonal group. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} M_p(S_{\beta, \lambda} f; r) &\leq \\ &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - |x|^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \int_S \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\beta+\lambda+n-1}} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho d\sigma(\eta) \leq \\ &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - r^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{(1 - r\rho)^{\beta+\lambda}} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho = \tag{11} \\ &= C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1 - r^2)^\lambda \left(\int_0^r + \int_r^1 \right) \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{(1 - r\rho)^{\beta+\lambda}} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho \leq \\ &\leq C(1 - r^2)^\lambda \int_0^r \frac{M_p(f; \rho)}{(1 - \rho)^{1+\lambda}} d\rho + C(1 - r)^{-\beta} \int_r^1 (1 - \rho^2)^{\beta-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho. \end{aligned}$$

Case $1 \leq q < \infty$. First note that the last integral in (11) is convergent since $\beta > \alpha$ and

$$\int_0^1 (1-\rho^2)^{\beta-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho \leq \int_0^1 (1-\rho^2)^{\alpha-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho \leq C_\alpha \|f\|_{L(p,1,\alpha)} < +\infty$$

for $q = 1$, while for $1 < q < \infty$ we estimate by Hölder's inequality ($1/q + 1/q' = 1$)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 (1-\rho^2)^{\beta-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho &= \int_0^1 (1-\rho^2)^{\beta-\alpha+\alpha} M_p(f; \rho) \frac{d\rho}{1-\rho} \leq \\ &\leq C_\beta \left(\int_0^1 (1-\rho)^{q'(\beta-\alpha)} \frac{d\rho}{1-\rho} \right)^{1/q'} \left(\int_0^1 (1-\rho)^{\alpha q} M_p^q(f; \rho) \frac{d\rho}{1-\rho} \right)^{1/q} = \\ &= C(\alpha, \beta, q) \|f\|_{L(p,q,\alpha)} < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

By the triangle inequality and next by Hardy's inequality in Lemma 2,

$$\begin{aligned} \|S_{\beta,\lambda} f\|_{L(p,q,\alpha)} &= \left\| (1-r)^\alpha M_p(S_{\beta,\lambda} f; r) \right\|_{L^q(dr/(1-r))} \leq \\ &\leq C \left\| (1-r)^{\alpha+\lambda} \int_0^r M_p(f; \rho) \frac{d\rho}{(1-\rho)^{1+\lambda}} \right\|_{L^q(dr/(1-r))} + \\ &\quad + C \left\| (1-r)^{\alpha-\beta} \int_r^1 (1-\rho)^{\beta-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho \right\|_{L^q(dr/(1-r))} \leq \\ &\leq C \left[\int_0^1 (1-r)^{(\alpha+\lambda)q-1} \left(\frac{1-r}{(1-r)^{1+\lambda}} M_p(f; r) \right)^q dr \right]^{1/q} + \\ &\quad + C \left[\int_0^1 \rho^{(\alpha-\beta)q-1} \left(\int_0^\rho t^{\beta-1} M_p(f; 1-t) dt \right)^q d\rho \right]^{1/q} \leq C \|f\|_{L(p,q,\alpha)}. \end{aligned}$$

Case $q = \infty$. Since $(1-r)^\alpha M_p(f; r) \leq \|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)}$ and $\beta > \alpha$, the last integral in (11) again converges

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 (1-\rho^2)^{\beta-1} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho &\leq C_\beta \int_0^1 (1-\rho)^{\beta-1} \frac{\|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)}}{(1-\rho)^\alpha} d\rho = \\ &= C(\alpha, \beta) \|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)} < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore by Lemma 1,

$$\begin{aligned} M_p(S_{\beta,\lambda} f; r) &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1-r^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \frac{(1-\rho)^{\beta-1}}{(1-r\rho)^{\beta+\lambda}} M_p(f; \rho) d\rho \leq \\ &\leq C(\beta, \lambda, n) (1-r^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \frac{(1-\rho^2)^{\beta-1}}{(1-r\rho)^{\beta+\lambda}} \frac{\|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)}}{(1-\rho)^\alpha} d\rho = \\ &= C(\beta, \lambda, n) \|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)} (1-r^2)^\lambda \int_0^1 \frac{(1-\rho)^{\beta-\alpha-1}}{(1-r\rho)^{\beta+\lambda}} d\rho \leq \\ &\leq C(\alpha, \beta, \lambda, n) \|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)} (1-r^2)^\lambda \frac{1}{(1-r)^{\alpha+\lambda}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(1-r)^\alpha M_p(S_{\beta,\lambda} f; r) \leq C(\alpha, \beta, \lambda, n) \|f\|_{L(p,\infty,\alpha)}, \quad 0 \leq r < 1,$$

so, (4) and (5) are proved.

Since the operator $T_{\beta,0}$ ($\lambda = 0$) is bounded on $L(p, q, \alpha)$ and is the identity map on $h(p, q, \alpha)$ (by Theorem A), the mapping (6), $T_{\beta,0} : L(p, q, \alpha) \rightarrow h(p, q, \alpha)$ is a harmonic projection of $L(p, q, \alpha)$ onto $h(p, q, \alpha)$. The proof of Theorem 1 is complete. \square

Bounded Projection on the Lipschitz Space. It would be of interest to find out the images of other classical function spaces under the Bergman operators. It turns out that T_{β} preserves the Lipschitz classes in B .

Definition 4. A function $f(x)$ given in the unit ball B is said to belong to Lipschitz space $\text{Lip } \alpha$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$), if

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C(\alpha, n)|x - y|^{\alpha}, \quad x, y \in B.$$

The Lipschitz space $\text{Lip } \alpha$ is equipped with a seminorm

$$\|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} := \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|^{\alpha}},$$

and $\text{Lip } \alpha$ becomes a Banach space with the norm $|f(0)| + \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha}$. Let $\text{hLip } \alpha$ be the subspace of $\text{Lip } \alpha$ consisting of harmonic functions,

$$\text{hLip } \alpha := h(B) \cap \text{Lip } \alpha.$$

The following is an analogue of the classical Hardy–Littlewood theorem [1]. The proof is a repetition of the classical one with obvious changes.

Lemma 3. Harmonic function $u(x)$ is in $\text{hLip } \alpha$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$) if and only if

$$|\nabla u(x)| \leq C(\alpha, n)(1 - |x|)^{\alpha-1}, \quad x \in B.$$

Corresponding seminorms are equivalent:

$$C(\alpha, n)\|u\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \leq \sup_{x \in B} (1 - |x|)^{1-\alpha} |\nabla u(x)| \leq C(\alpha, n)\|u\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha}.$$

Now we study the action of the Bergman type operators in Lipschitz spaces.

Theorem 2. For $0 < \alpha < 1$, $\beta > 0$, the operator T_{β} continuously projects $\text{Lip } \alpha$ onto its harmonic subspace $\text{hLip } \alpha$,

$$T_{\beta} : \text{Lip } \alpha \xrightarrow{\text{onto}} \text{hLip } \alpha,$$

that is,

$$\|T_{\beta}f\|_{\text{hLip } \alpha} \leq C(\alpha, \beta, n)\|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha}, \quad f \in \text{Lip } \alpha.$$

Proof. Let $f(x) \in \text{Lip } \alpha$ be an arbitrary function not necessarily harmonic. Because of Theorem A

$$1 = \frac{2}{n\Gamma(\beta)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} P_{\beta}(x, y) dV(y), \quad x \in B.$$

It follows that for any fixed point $z \in B$, $0 < |z - x| < 1 - |x|$,

$$T_{\beta}(f)(x) = \frac{2}{n\Gamma(\beta)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} P_{\beta}(x, y) (f(y) - f(z)) dV(y) + f(z). \quad (12)$$

We also need an estimate for the derivatives of the Poisson–Bergman kernel (see, e.g., [7, 8, 12, 14])

$$|\nabla_x P_{\alpha}(x, y)| \leq \frac{C(\alpha, n)}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\alpha+n}}, \quad x = r\zeta, \quad y = \rho\eta, \quad \alpha \geq 0, \quad (13)$$

Differentiation of (12) with the gradient ∇_x and estimation by using of (13) and the obvious inequality $|y - x| < |\rho x - \eta|$, $x, y \in B$, lead to

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla_x T_\beta(f)(x)| &\leq \frac{2}{n\Gamma(\beta)} \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} |\nabla_x P_\beta(x, y)| |f(y) - f(z)| dV(y) \leq \\ &\leq C(\alpha, \beta, n) \int_B (1 - |y|^2)^{\beta-1} \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \frac{|y - z|^\alpha}{|\rho x - \eta|^{\beta+n}} dV(y) \leq \\ &\leq C(\alpha, \beta, n) \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \int_B \frac{|y - z|^\alpha}{|\rho x - \eta|^{n+1}} dV(y). \end{aligned}$$

The application of the triangle inequality and Lemma 1 finally yields:

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla_x T_\beta(f)(x)| &\leq C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \int_B \frac{|y - x|^\alpha}{|\rho x - \eta|^{n+1}} dV(y) + \\ &\quad + C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} |x - z|^\alpha \int_B \frac{1}{|\rho x - \eta|^{n+1}} dV(y) \leq \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \int_B \frac{1}{|\rho x - \eta|^{n+1-\alpha}} dV(y) + \\ &\quad + C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} (1 - |x|)^\alpha \int_B \frac{1}{|\rho x - \eta|^{n+1}} dV(y) \leq \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \frac{1}{(1 - |x|)^{1-\alpha}} + C \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \frac{(1 - |x|)^\alpha}{1 - |x|} = \\ &= C(\alpha, \beta, n) \|f\|_{\text{Lip } \alpha} \frac{1}{(1 - |x|)^{1-\alpha}}. \end{aligned}$$

This together with Lemma 3 completes the proof of Theorem 2. \square

Remark 2. Theorem 2 asserts that the Bergman operator $T_\beta \equiv T_{\beta,0}$ acts as a bounded harmonic projection in Lipschitz spaces. Preservation of Lipschitz spaces under the Bergman projection was studied in [19] (for unweighted Bergman projection) and in [20] (for integer β).

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