

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | iv |
| NOTATIONS AND DEFINITIONS | v |
| ABSTRACT | viii |
| GENERAL INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| I THE HARDY-LITTLEWOOD MAXIMAL FUNCTION | 5 |
| 1.1 Introduction: A theorem for the maximal function | 5 |
| 1.2 A covering lemma of Vitali-type | 6 |
| 1.3 The proof of the theorem | 8 |
| 1.4 The Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem | 10 |
| 1.5 Approximations of the identity | 13 |
| II SPHERICAL MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS – I | |
| The Fourier transform technique | 18 |
| 2.1 Introduction: Stein’s theorem | 18 |
| 2.2 Variants of M_r | 22 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 2.3 Variants of \mathcal{M} | 24 |
| 2.4 The g -function argument and the L^2 -inequality | 25 |
| 2.5 The L^p -inequality | 30 |
| 2.6 An extension from $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ to $L^p(\mathbf{R}^n)$ | 31 |
| III SPHERICAL MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS – II | |
| The Mellin transform technique | 34 |
| 3.1 Introduction: The use of the Mellin transform | 34 |
| 3.2 The behaviour of $A(u)$ and $C(u)$ | 35 |
| 3.3 The behaviour of the kernels K_u | 36 |
| 3.4 The proof of Stein's theorem | 42 |
| 3.5 The pointwise convergence result | 45 |
| IV THE GENERAL L^2 -THEORY OF MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS ON \mathbf{R}^n – I | |
| 4.1 Introduction: The result of Cowling and Mauceri | 48 |
| 4.2 More about the Riesz operators | 49 |
| 4.3 The Mellin transform argument | 52 |
| 4.4 A further result: the L^2 -inequality | 53 |
| V THE GENERAL L^2 -THEORY OF MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS ON \mathbf{R}^n – II | |
| 5.1 Introduction: Main results | 57 |
| 5.2 A supporting lemma | 59 |
| 5.3 Invoking a result of Hörmander | 64 |
| 5.4 The proof of the theorem | 67 |

| | |
|--|----|
| VI A GENERALIZATION OF MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS | |
| ON COMPACT SEMISIMPLE LIE GROUPS | 70 |
| 6.1 Introduction: The result of Cowling and Meaney | 70 |
| 6.2 A more general result | 72 |
| 6.3 Lie group and representation theoretic arguments | 73 |
| 6.4 The proof of the theorem | 81 |
| 6.5 An extension to the semisimple case | 86 |
| 6.6 An example: The sharpness of the estimate | 87 |
| 6.7 Table of $ \Phi^+ $ and γ | 92 |
| REFERENCES | 93 |