



# The John–Nirenberg Inequality for the Regularized BLO Space on Non-homogeneous Metric Measure Spaces

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**Abstract.** Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a metric measure space satisfying the geometrically doubling condition and the upper doubling condition. In this paper, the authors establish the John–Nirenberg inequality for the regularized BLO space  $\widehat{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$ .

## 1 Introduction

In the classical Euclidean space (the Euclidean space equipped with the Lebesgue measure), the John–Nirenberg inequality for the space  $\text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  established by John and Nirenberg [12] examines the rate of logarithmic growth of functions in  $\text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ; see, for instance [5, p. 123]. In 2001, Tolsa [15] introduced the regularized BMO space  $\text{RBMO}(\mu)$  for non-doubling measures and established a version of John–Nirenberg inequality suitable for the space  $\text{RBMO}(\mu)$ . In [9], Hytönen also established the John–Nirenberg inequality for the space  $\text{RBMO}(\mu)$  on non-homogeneous metric measure spaces. On the other hand, Coifman and Rochberg [2] introduced the space  $\text{BLO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  as a subspace of  $\text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . We mention that the first author and his co-authors constructed a nonnegative function in  $\text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  but not in  $\text{BLO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  in [14]. Recently, Wang et al. [16] established the John–Nirenberg inequality for the space  $\text{BLO}^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $0 < p \leq 1$  and proved the equivalence between the  $\text{BLO}^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  spaces for  $p \in (0, \infty)$ . Moreover, Jiang [11] and Lin and Yang [13], respectively, introduced the space  $\text{RBLO}(\mu)$  for non-doubling measures and the space  $\widehat{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$  on non-homogeneous metric measure spaces. We refer the reader to the monograph [18] for more developments on harmonic analysis for non-doubling measures.

The aim of this paper is to establish the John–Nirenberg inequality for the regularized BLO space,  $\widehat{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$ , via the discrete coefficient on non-homogeneous metric measure spaces. To state our main result, we first recall some necessary notation and notions. The following notion of geometrically doubling can be found in [3, pp. 66–67] and is also known as *metrically doubling* (see [8, p. 81]).

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**Definition 1.1** A metric space  $(\mathcal{X}, d)$  is said to be *geometrically doubling* if there exists some  $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}^+ := \{1, 2, \dots\}$  such that for any ball  $B(x, r) \subset \mathcal{X}$  with  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $r \in (0, \infty)$ , there exists a finite ball covering  $\{B(x_i, r/2)\}_i$  of  $B(x, r)$  such that the cardinality of this covering is at most  $N_0$ .

The following definition of upper doubling was originally introduced by Hytönen [9].

**Definition 1.2** A metric measure space  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  is said to be *upper doubling* if  $\mu$  is a Borel measure on  $\mathcal{X}$  and there exist a *dominating function*  $\lambda : \mathcal{X} \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  and a positive constant  $C_{(\lambda)}$ , depending on  $\lambda$ , such that for each  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $r \mapsto \lambda(x, r)$  is non-decreasing and for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $r \in (0, \infty)$ ,

$$\mu(B(x, r)) \leq \lambda(x, r) \leq C_{(\lambda)} \lambda(x, r/2).$$

**Remark 1.3** (i) If  $\lambda(x, r) := \mu(B(x, r))$  for any  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $r \in (0, \infty)$ , then the upper doubling space  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  is just the space of homogeneous type in the sense of Coifman and Weiss [3, 4]; if  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu) = (\mathbb{R}^n, |\cdot|, \mu)$  and, for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $r \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $\lambda(x, r) := Cr^k$  with  $C$  being a positive constant, then  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  is just the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space equipped with the non-doubling measure only satisfying the polynomial growth condition introduced by Tolsa [15].

(ii) It was proved in [10] that there exists another dominating function  $\tilde{\lambda}$  such that  $\tilde{\lambda} \leq \lambda$ ,  $C_{(\tilde{\lambda})} \leq C_{(\lambda)}$  and, for any  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$  with  $d(x, y) \leq r$ ,

$$(1.1) \quad \tilde{\lambda}(x, r) \leq C_{(\tilde{\lambda})} \tilde{\lambda}(y, r).$$

If a metric measure space  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  is both upper doubling and geometrically doubling, then it is simply called a *non-homogeneous metric measure space*. By Remark 1.3, we always assume that the dominating function  $\lambda$  satisfies (1.1). In the whole paper, for any ball  $B \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ , we denote its center and radius by  $c_B$  and  $r_B$ , respectively, and, moreover, for any  $\rho \in (0, \infty)$ , we denote the ball  $B(c_B, \rho r_B)$  by  $\rho B$ . When we speak of a ball  $B$  in  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$ , it is understood that it comes with a fixed center and radius, although these, in general, are not uniquely determined by  $B$  as a set; see [8, pp. 1–2]. In other words, for any two balls  $B, S \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ , if  $B = S$ , then  $c_B = c_S$  and  $r_B = r_S$ . From this, we deduce that if  $B \subseteq S$ , then  $r_B \leq 2r_S$ , which guarantees that the definition of the following discrete coefficient  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  makes sense; see [6, pp. 314–315] for some details. We mention that the discrete coefficient  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  was introduced by Bui and Duong [1] as an analogue of the quantity introduced by Tolsa [15] in the setting of non-doubling measures; see also [6, 7].

**Definition 1.4** For any  $\rho \in (1, \infty)$  and any two balls  $B \subset S \subset \mathcal{X}$ , let

$$\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)} := 1 + \sum_{k=-\lfloor \log_2 \rho \rfloor}^{N_{B,S}^{(\rho)}} \frac{\mu(\rho^k B)}{\lambda(c_B, \rho^k r_B)}.$$

Here and hereafter, for any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lfloor a \rfloor$  represents the greatest integer which is not larger than  $a$ , and  $N_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  is the smallest integer satisfying  $\rho^{N_{B,S}^{(\rho)}} r_B \geq r_S$ .

**Remark 1.5** Hytönen [9] introduced a continuous version,  $K_{B,S}$ , of the coefficient  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  as follows: for any two balls  $B \subset S \subset \mathcal{X}$ , let

$$K_{B,S} := 1 + \int_{(2S) \setminus B} \frac{1}{\lambda(c_B, d(x, c_B))} d\mu(x).$$

Obviously,  $K_{B,S} \leq C \tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  with  $C$  being a positive constant independent of the balls  $B$  and  $S$ . On  $(\mathbb{R}^n, |\cdot|, \mu)$  with  $\mu$  satisfying the polynomial growth condition,  $K_{B,S}$  and  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  are equivalent, namely,  $C_1 K_{B,S} \leq \tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)} \leq C_2 K_{B,S}$  with  $C_1, C_2$  being positive constants independent of the balls  $B$  and  $S$ , but  $K_{B,S}$  and  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  are usually not equivalent on  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$ ; see [7] for more details.

Before we recall the definition of the regularized BLO space  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$ , we also need the following notion of an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -doubling ball introduced in [9].

**Definition 1.6** Let  $\alpha, \beta \in (1, \infty)$ . A ball  $B \subset \mathcal{X}$  is said to be  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -doubling if  $\mu(\alpha B) \leq \beta \mu(B)$ .

In  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$ , if  $\beta$  is large enough, then, for any  $B(x, r) \subset \mathcal{X}$  with  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $r \in (0, \infty)$ , there exists some  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ := \{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $\alpha^j B$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -doubling, and, for  $\mu$ -a.e.  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , there exist arbitrary small  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -doubling balls centered at  $x$  with the radii of the form  $\alpha^{-j} r$  for  $j \in \mathbb{N}^+$  and any preassigned number  $r \in (0, \infty)$ ; see [9, Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3] for more details. In what follows, let  $v := \log_2 C_{(\lambda)}$  and  $n_0 := \log_2 N_0$ , where  $N_0$  is as in Definition 1.1. Throughout the paper, for any  $\alpha \in (1, \infty)$  and ball  $B$ , the smallest  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball of the form  $\alpha^j B$  with  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  is denoted by  $\tilde{B}^\alpha$ , where

$$(1.2) \quad \beta_\alpha := \max\{\alpha^{n_0}, \alpha^v\} + 30^{n_0} + 30^v = \alpha^{\max\{n_0, v\}} + 30^{n_0} + 30^v;$$

see [10] for the details.

The following regularized BLO space  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$  was introduced in [17].

**Definition 1.7** Let  $\eta, \rho \in (1, \infty)$ , and let  $\beta_\rho$  be as in (1.2). A real-valued function  $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mu)$  is said to be in the space  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)$  if there exists a nonnegative constant  $C$  such that for all balls  $B$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\mu(\eta B)} \int_B [f(y) - \text{essinf}_{\tilde{B}^\rho} f] d\mu(y) \leq C,$$

and that for all  $(\rho, \beta_\rho)$ -doubling balls  $B \subset S$ ,

$$\text{essinf}_B f - \text{essinf}_S f \leq C \tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}.$$

Moreover, the  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)$  norm of  $f$  is defined to be the minimal constant  $C$  as above and denoted by  $\|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)}$ .

**Remark 1.8** (i) If we replace  $\widetilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  by  $K_{B,S}$  in Definition 1.7, then  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)$  becomes the space  $\text{RBLO}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)$  in [13].

(ii) In [17, Remark 2.6(i)], Yang et al. pointed out that  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)$  is independent of the choices of the constants  $\eta, \rho \in (1, \infty)$ , and, moreover, there is an equivalent norm for  $\|\cdot\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)}$  as follows. Let  $\eta, \rho \in (1, \infty)$ . Suppose that for any given  $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mu)$ , there exist a nonnegative constant  $\widetilde{C}$  and a real number  $f_B$  for any ball  $B$  such that for all balls  $B$ ,

$$(1.3) \quad \frac{1}{\mu(\eta B)} \int_B [f(y) - f_B] d\mu(y) \leq \widetilde{C},$$

that for all balls  $B \subset S$ ,

$$(1.4) \quad |f_B - f_S| \leq \widetilde{C} \widetilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)},$$

and that for all balls  $B$ ,

$$(1.5) \quad f_B \leq \operatorname{ess\,inf}_B f.$$

Define the norm  $\|f\|_{*,\eta,\rho} := \inf\{\widetilde{C}\}$ , where the infimum is taken over all the nonnegative constants  $\widetilde{C}$  as above. Then the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{*,\eta,\rho}$  is independent of the choice of the constant  $\eta \in (1, \infty)$ ; namely, for any fixed  $\rho \in (1, \infty)$ , let  $\eta_1 > \eta_2 > 1$ , then

$$(1.6) \quad \|\cdot\|_{*,\eta_1,\rho} \leq \|\cdot\|_{*,\eta_2,\rho} \leq C_{(\eta_1,\eta_2,\rho)} \|\cdot\|_{*,\eta_1,\rho},$$

where  $C_{(\eta_1,\eta_2,\rho)}$  is a positive constant, depending on  $\eta_1, \eta_2$  and  $\rho$ . Moreover, the norms  $\|\cdot\|_{*,\eta,\rho}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)}$  are equivalent; namely,

$$(1.7) \quad C_{(\rho)} \|\cdot\|_{*,\eta,\rho} \leq \|\cdot\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)} \leq C_{(\eta,\rho)} \|\cdot\|_{*,\eta,\rho},$$

where  $C_{(\rho)}$  and  $C_{(\eta,\rho)}$  are positive constants, depending on  $\rho$  and  $\eta, \rho$ , respectively.

We now give the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 1.9** Let  $(X, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Then, for any  $\eta \in (2, \infty)$ , there exists a positive constant  $c$  such that for any  $f \in \widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$ , any ball  $B_0 = B(x_0, r)$  and any  $t \in (0, \infty)$ ,

$$(1.8) \quad \mu(\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > t\}) \leq 2\mu(\eta B_0) e^{-ct/\|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)}},$$

where  $f_{B_0}$  is as in Remark 1.8(ii) with  $B$  replaced by  $B_0$ .

In Section 2, we mainly give the proof of Theorem 1.9. Hytönen [9, p. 487] pointed out that only the basic covering lemma rather than the Besicovitch covering theorem is available in the present setting; we have to borrow some ideas from the proof of [9, Proposition 6.1] to prove Theorem 1.9. Though the proof of Theorem 1.9 follows essentially the same method used in the Hytönen work on  $\text{RBMO}(\mu)$  in [9], we make a more detailed and effective discussion; see, for instance, the proof of (2.4). Moreover, we obtain that the range of  $\eta$  in Theorem 1.9 is sharp by the present method (see Remark 2.7), and it is unclear whether the John–Nirenberg inequality (1.8) for the space  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$  holds true for  $\eta \in (1, 2]$ .

We now make some conventions on notation. Throughout the whole paper, we denote by  $C$ ,  $\tilde{C}$ , or  $c$  a positive constant, which is independent of the main parameters, but they may vary from line to line. Constants with subscripts, such as  $C_1$  and  $c_1$ , do not change in different occurrences. Moreover, we use  $C_{(\alpha)}$ ,  $c_{(\alpha)}$ , or  $\tilde{c}_{(\alpha)}$  to denote a positive constant depending on the parameter  $\alpha$ . For any ball  $B$  and  $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{X})$ ,  $m_B(f)$  stands for the mean of  $f$  over the ball  $B$ , namely,  $m_B(f) := \frac{1}{\mu(B)} \int_B f(y) d\mu(y)$ .

## 2 The Proof of Theorem 1.9

To prove Theorem 1.9, we first recall some useful properties of  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  that were proved in [6].

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Let  $\rho \in (1, \infty)$  and  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$  be as in Definition 1.4.*

- (i) *There exists a positive constant  $c_{(\rho)}$ , depending on  $\rho$ , such that for all balls  $B \subset R \subset S$ ,  $\tilde{K}_{B,R}^{(\rho)} \leq c_{(\rho)} \tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)}$ .*
- (ii) *For any  $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$ , there exists a positive constant  $c_{(\alpha, \rho)}$ , depending on  $\alpha$  and  $\rho$ , such that for all balls  $B \subset S$  with  $r_S \leq \alpha r_B$ ,  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)} \leq c_{(\alpha, \rho)}$ .*
- (iii) *For any  $\alpha \in [1, \infty)$ , there exists a positive constant  $\tilde{c}_{(\alpha, \rho)}$ , depending on  $\alpha$  and  $\rho$ , such that for all balls  $B$ ,  $\tilde{K}_{B, \tilde{B}^\alpha}^{(\rho)} \leq \tilde{c}_{(\alpha, \rho)}$ .*
- (iv) *There exists a positive constant  $\tilde{c}_{(\rho)}$ , depending on  $\rho$ , such that for all balls  $B \subset R \subset S$ ,  $\tilde{K}_{B,S}^{(\rho)} \leq \tilde{K}_{B,R}^{(\rho)} + \tilde{c}_{(\rho)} \tilde{K}_{R,S}^{(\rho)}$ .*

The following basic covering lemma, which can be called the  $5r$ -covering lemma, is a simple corollary of [8, Theorem 1.2] and [9, Lemma 2.5].

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d)$  be a geometrically doubling metric space. Then every family  $\mathcal{F}$  of balls of uniformly bounded diameter contains an at most countable disjointed subfamily  $\mathcal{G}$  such that*

$$\bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{F}} B \subset \bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{G}} 5B.$$

The following lemma is a special case of [9, Corollary 3.6].

**Lemma 2.3** *Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Let  $\rho \in [5, \infty)$ . Then, for any  $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mu)$  and  $\mu$ -a.e.  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,*

$$f(x) = \lim_{\substack{B \downarrow x \\ (\rho, \beta_\rho)\text{-doubling}}} m_B(f),$$

where the limit is along the decreasing family of all  $(\rho, \beta_\rho)$ -doubling balls containing  $x$ , ordered by set inclusion.

Before proving Theorem 1.9, we also need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.4** Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Then, for any  $f \in \widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)$  and any two balls  $B_1, B_2$  satisfying

$$(2.1) \quad d(c_{B_1}, c_{B_2}) \leq c_1 \max\{r_{B_1}, r_{B_2}\} \leq c_2 \min\{r_{B_1}, r_{B_2}\}$$

with  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  being positive constants independent of the balls  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ ,

$$|f_{B_1} - f_{B_2}| \leq C_{(c_1, c_2, \eta, \rho)} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)},$$

where  $C_{(c_1, c_2, \eta, \rho)}$  is a positive constant, depending on  $c_1, c_2, \eta$  and  $\rho$ , and  $f_{B_i}$  is as in Remark 1.8(ii) with  $B$  replaced by  $B_i, i = 1, 2$ .

**Proof** From (2.1), we see that there exist some positive constants  $m$  and  $M$ , depending on  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , such that

$$B_1 \cup B_2 \subseteq mB_1 \quad \text{and} \quad 2mB_1 \subseteq MB_2.$$

This, together with (ii) and (i) of Lemma 2.1, the fact that (1.3) through (1.5) hold with  $\widetilde{C} = \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho}$  and (1.7), shows that

$$\begin{aligned} |f_{B_1} - f_{B_2}| &\leq |f_{B_1} - f_{mB_1}| + |f_{mB_1} - f_{B_2}| \\ &\leq \widetilde{K}_{B_1, mB_1}^{(\rho)} \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho} + \widetilde{K}_{B_2, mB_1}^{(\rho)} \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho} \\ &\leq \frac{C_{(m, \rho)}}{C_{(\rho)}} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)} + \frac{C_{(\rho)}}{C_{(\rho)}} \widetilde{K}_{B_2, MB_2}^{(\rho)} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)} \\ &\leq \frac{C_{(m, \rho)} + C_{(\rho)} C_{(M, \rho)}}{C_{(\rho)}} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

By choosing  $C_{(c_1, c_2, \eta, \rho)} := [C_{(m, \rho)} + C_{(\rho)} C_{(M, \rho)}] / C_{(\rho)}$ , we finish the proof of Lemma 2.4. ■

**Lemma 2.5** Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Let  $\rho \in (1, \infty)$ . Then, for any  $f \in \widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)$  and any  $(\rho, \beta_\rho)$ -doubling ball  $B$ ,

$$m_B(f) - f_B \leq C_{(\rho, \beta_\rho)} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)},$$

where  $C_{(\rho, \beta_\rho)}$  is a positive constant, depending on  $\rho$  and  $\beta_\rho$ , and  $f_B$  is as in Remark 1.8(ii).

**Proof** From the property of the  $(\rho, \beta_\rho)$ -doubling ball, the fact that (1.3) holds with  $\widetilde{C} = \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho}$  and (1.7), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} m_B(f) - f_B &= \frac{\mu(\rho B)}{\mu(B)} \frac{1}{\mu(\rho B)} \int_B [f(x) - f_B] d\mu(x) \\ &\leq \beta_\rho \|f\|_* \leq \frac{\beta_\rho}{C_{(\rho)}} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

By choosing  $C_{(\rho, \beta_\rho)} := \beta_\rho / C_{(\rho)}$ , we finish the proof of Lemma 2.5. ■

**Lemma 2.6** Let  $(\mathcal{X}, d, \mu)$  be a non-homogeneous metric measure space. Let  $\alpha, \rho \in (1, \infty)$ . Then, for any  $f \in \widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)$  and any ball  $B$ ,

$$f_B - f_{\widetilde{B}^\alpha} \leq C_{(\alpha, \rho)} \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta, \rho}(\mu)},$$

where  $C_{(\alpha,\rho)}$  is a positive constant, depending on  $\alpha$  and  $\rho$ , and  $f_B$  and  $f_{\widetilde{B}^\alpha}$  are as in Remark 1.8(ii).

**Proof** From the fact that (1.4) holds with  $\widetilde{C} = \|f\|_{*,\eta,\rho}$ , Lemma 2.1(iii) and (1.7), it follows that

$$f_B - f_{\widetilde{B}^\alpha} \leq \widetilde{K}_{B,\widetilde{B}^\alpha}^{(\rho)} \|f\|_{*,\eta,\rho} \leq \frac{\widetilde{C}_{(\alpha,\rho)}}{C_{(\rho)}} \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta,\rho}}(\mu)}.$$

By choosing  $C_{(\alpha,\rho)} := \widetilde{C}_{(\alpha,\rho)}/C_{(\rho)}$ , we finish the proof of Lemma 2.6. ■

Now we turn to prove Theorem 1.9.

**Proof of Theorem 1.9.** Let  $\alpha := 5\eta$  and let  $K := 2C^* \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta,\rho}}(\mu)}$ , where

$$C^* := \beta_\alpha(C_3 + C_4 + C_5 + C_6 + C_7 + C_8 + C_9C_{10} + C_9C_{11})$$

with  $C_3$  through  $C_{11}$  will be chosen later. Now we consider the following two cases of  $t \in (0, \infty)$ .

Case (I)  $t \in (0, 2K)$ . In this case, by choosing  $c \in (0, \frac{\ln 2}{4C^*}]$ , we have

$$e^{ct/\|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta,\rho}}(\mu)}} \leq e^{2K \ln 2 / (4C^* \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta,\rho}}(\mu)})} \leq 2,$$

which implies that (1.8) holds.

Case (II)  $t \in [2K, \infty)$ . In this case, we first let  $\eta \in (4, \infty)$ . For any  $x \in B_0$  such that  $f(x) - f_{B_0} > t$ , let  $B_x$  be the biggest  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball with center  $x$  and radius  $\alpha^{-i}r$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that

$$(2.2) \quad B_x \subseteq \sqrt{\eta}B_0 \quad \text{and} \quad f_{B_x} - f_{B_0} > K.$$

In fact, since  $\eta \in (4, \infty)$ , we have that for any  $x \in B_0$  and any  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,  $B(x, \alpha^{-i}r) \subset \sqrt{\eta}B_0$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 2.3, we see that for any  $x \in B_0$  with  $f(x) - f_{B_0} > t \geq 2K$ , there exist arbitrarily small  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling balls  $B^* = B(x, \alpha^{-i}r)$  with  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that  $m_{B^*}(f) - f_{B_0} > 2K$ . It then follows from Lemma 2.5 that

$$f_{B^*} - f_{B_0} = m_{B^*}(f) - f_{B_0} - [m_{B^*}(f) - f_{B^*}] > 2K - C_3 \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta,\rho}}(\mu)} > K,$$

where  $C_3 := C_{(\rho,\beta_\rho)}$ , which implies that for any  $x \in B_0$ , the ball  $B_x$  satisfying (2.2) exists. From the fact that  $m_{B_x}(f) \geq \text{essinf}_{B_x} f \geq f_{B_x}$ , we further conclude that

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{1}{\mu(B_x)} \int_{B_x} [f(x) - f_{B_0}] d\mu(x) = m_{B_x}(f) - f_{B_x} + f_{B_x} - f_{B_0} > K.$$

Moreover, we claim that

$$(2.4) \quad K < f_{B_x} - f_{B_0} \leq \frac{3}{2}K.$$

To prove (2.4), we consider the following two cases.

Case (i)  $f_{\alpha B_x} - f_{B_0} \leq K$ . In this case, by Lemmas 2.4 and 2.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} K &< f_{B_x} - f_{B_0} = f_{B_x} - f_{\alpha B_x} + f_{\alpha B_x} - f_{\alpha B_x} + f_{\alpha B_x} - f_{B_0} \\ &\leq |f_{B_x} - f_{\alpha B_x}| + C_{(\alpha, \rho)} \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta, \rho}}(\mu)} + K \\ &\leq (C_4 + C_5) \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta, \rho}}(\mu)} + K \leq \frac{3}{2} K, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_4 := C_{(1, \alpha, \eta, \rho)}$  and  $C_5 := C_{(\alpha, \rho)}$ ;

Case (ii)  $f_{\alpha B_x} - f_{B_0} > K$ . In this case, notice that  $\widetilde{\alpha B_x}^\alpha$  is the  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball of the form  $\alpha^i B_x$  with  $i \in \mathbb{N}^+$  and  $B_x$  is the biggest  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball of the form  $B(x, \alpha^{-i} r)$  with  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . From the maximality of  $B_x$ , we deduce that  $B(x, r) \subset \widetilde{\alpha B_x}^\alpha$ . Let  $A_x$  be the smallest ball of the form  $B(x, \alpha^i r)$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , satisfying  $B(x, \alpha^i r) \not\subset \sqrt{\eta} B_0$ . Notice that  $r_{B_0} = r$ ,  $B(x, r) \subset \sqrt{\eta} B_0$  and  $B(x, \alpha^i r) \not\subset \sqrt{\eta} B_0$  for any  $i \geq \lfloor \log_\alpha(\sqrt{\eta} - 1) \rfloor + 1 =: i_0$ , we have  $r \leq r_{A_x} \leq \alpha^{i_0} r$ , which implies that  $B_x \subset A_x \subset \alpha^{i_0} \widetilde{\alpha B_x}^\alpha$ . It then follows from Lemmas 2.4 and 2.1 that

$$|f_{A_x} - f_{B_0}| \leq C_6 \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta, \rho}}(\mu)} \leq K,$$

where  $C_6 := C_{(1, \alpha^{i_0}, \eta, \rho)}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{K}_{B_x, A_x}^{(\rho)} &\leq c_{(\rho)} \widetilde{K}_{B_x, \alpha^{i_0} \widetilde{\alpha B_x}^\alpha}^{(\rho)} \leq c_{(\rho)} [\widetilde{K}_{B_x, \alpha B_x}^{(\rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} \widetilde{K}_{\alpha B_x, \alpha^{i_0} \widetilde{\alpha B_x}^\alpha}^{(\rho)}] \\ &\leq c_{(\rho)} [\widetilde{K}_{B_x, \alpha B_x}^{(\rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} \widetilde{K}_{\alpha B_x, \alpha B_x}^{(\rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} c_{(\alpha, \rho)}] \\ &\leq c_{(\rho)} [c_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} \widetilde{c}_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} c_{(\alpha, \rho)}]. \end{aligned}$$

The above estimates, together with the fact that (1.4) holds with  $\widetilde{C} = \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho}$  and (1.7), shows that

$$\begin{aligned} K &< f_{B_x} - f_{B_0} = f_{B_x} - f_{A_x} + f_{A_x} - f_{B_0} \\ &\leq \widetilde{K}_{B_x, A_x}^{(\rho)} \|f\|_{*, \eta, \rho} + |f_{A_x} - f_{B_0}| \\ &\leq \frac{c_{(\rho)} [c_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} \widetilde{c}_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} c_{(\alpha, \rho)}]}{C_{(\rho)}} \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta, \rho}}(\mu)} + K \\ &= C_7 \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}_{\eta, \rho}}(\mu)} + K \leq \frac{3}{2} K, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_7 := c_{(\rho)} [c_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} \widetilde{c}_{(\alpha, \rho)} + \widetilde{c}_{(\rho)} c_{(\alpha, \rho)}] / C_{(\rho)}$ . This completes the proof of our claim.

By Lemma 2.2, there exists a disjointed subfamily  $\{B_j := B_{x_j}\}_{j \in J}$  such that

$$(2.5) \quad \left[ \bigcup_{x \in B_0} B_x \right] \subset \left[ \bigcup_{j \in J} 5B_j \right].$$



Writing  $A_j := 5B_j$ . If  $x \in B_0$  and  $f(x) - f_{B_0} > nK$  with  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , then  $x \in A_j$  for some  $j \in J$ , and hence by (2.4) and Lemma 2.4,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) - f_{A_j} &= f(x) - f_{B_0} + f_{B_0} - f_{B_j} + f_{B_j} - f_{A_j} \\ &\geq [f(x) - f_{B_0}] - [f_{B_j} - f_{B_0}] - |f_{B_j} - f_{A_j}| \\ &\geq nK - \frac{3}{2}K - C_8 \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)} > (n-2)K, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_8 := C_{(1,5,\eta,\rho)}$ . This, together with (2.5), implies that for  $n \in [2, \infty)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > nK\} \\ &\subseteq \bigcup_{x \in B_0 : f(x) - f_{B_0} > nK} \{y \in B_x : [f(y) - f_{B_0}] > nK\} \\ &\subseteq \bigcup_{j \in J} \{y \in A_j : [f(y) - f_{A_j}] > (n-2)K\}. \end{aligned}$$

Meanwhile, by Remark 1.8(ii), (1.6), and (1.7), we see that

$$(2.6) \quad \|\cdot\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\sqrt{\eta},\rho}(\mu)} \leq C_9 \|\cdot\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)},$$

where  $C_9 := C_{(\sqrt{\eta},\sqrt{\eta},\rho)}$  is a constant from (1.6). From the fact that the balls  $B_j = B_{x_j}$  are  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling, disjoint, and contained in  $\sqrt{\eta}B_0$ , (2.3), (1.5), (1.6), (1.7), Lemma 2.4, and (2.6), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} (2.7) \quad \sum_{j \in J} \mu(\eta A_j) &= \sum_{j \in J} \mu(\alpha B_j) \leq \beta_\alpha \sum_{j \in J} \mu(B_j) \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} \sum_{j \in J} \int_{B_j} [f(x) - f_{B_0}] d\mu(x) \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} \sum_{j \in J} \int_{B_j} [(f(x) - f_{\sqrt{\eta}B_0}) + |f_{\sqrt{\eta}B_0} - f_{B_0}|] d\mu(x) \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} \int_{\sqrt{\eta}B_0} [(f(x) - f_{\sqrt{\eta}B_0}) + |f_{\sqrt{\eta}B_0} - f_{B_0}|] d\mu(x) \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} \left[ \mu(\sqrt{\eta} \cdot \sqrt{\eta}B_0) \|f\|_{*,\sqrt{\eta},\rho} + C_{10} \mu(\sqrt{\eta}B_0) \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\sqrt{\eta},\rho}(\mu)} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} \left[ C_{11} \mu(\eta B_0) \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\sqrt{\eta},\rho}(\mu)} + C_{10} \mu(\eta B_0) \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\sqrt{\eta},\rho}(\mu)} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_\alpha}{K} [C_9 C_{11} + C_9 C_{10}] \mu(\eta B_0) \|f\|_{\overline{\text{RBL}\mathcal{O}}_{\eta,\rho}(\mu)} \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(\eta B_0), \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{10} := C_{(1,\sqrt{\eta},\eta,\rho)}$  and  $C_{11} := \frac{1}{C_{(\rho)}}$ .

Now from iterating with the balls  $A_j$  in place of  $B_0$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > 2nK\} \\ &\subseteq \bigcup_{j_1} \{x \in A_{j_1} : [f(x) - f_{A_{j_1}}] > 2(n-1)K\} \\ &\subseteq \bigcup_{j_1, j_2} \{x \in A_{j_1, j_2} : [f(x) - f_{A_{j_1, j_2}}] > 2(n-2)K\} \\ &\subseteq \cdots \subseteq \bigcup_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n} \{x \in A_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n} : [f(x) - f_{A_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n}}] > 0\}, \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > 2nK\}) &\leq \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}, j_n} \mu(A_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}, j_n}) \\ &\leq \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}} \sum_{j_n} \mu(\eta A_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}, j_n}) \\ &\leq \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}} \frac{1}{2} \mu(\eta A_{j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}}) \\ &\leq \dots \leq \frac{1}{2^n} \mu(\eta B_0). \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $2nK \leq t < 2(n+1)K$ . It then follows from the above estimates that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > t\}) &\leq \mu(\{x \in B_0 : [f(x) - f_{B_0}] > 2nK\}) \\ &\leq 2^{-n} \mu(\eta B_0) \\ &\leq 2^{-(2K)^{-1}t+1} \mu(\eta B_0) \\ &= 2e^{-ct/\|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}_{\eta,p}(\mu)}} \mu(\eta B_0). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $-n \leq 1 - \frac{t}{2K}$ , by choosing  $c \in (0, \frac{\ln 2}{4C^*}]$ , we see that (1.8) holds.

For  $\eta \in (2, \infty)$ , let  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$  such that  $\eta^\gamma > 2$ . In this case, we can find a ball  $B_z$  be the biggest  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball with center  $z$  and radius  $\alpha^{-i}r$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , such that  $B_z \subseteq \eta^\gamma B_0$  and  $f_{B_z} - f_{B_0} > K$ , and the rest of the proof is completely analogous to the above. Hence, we finish the proof of Theorem 1.9. ■

**Remark 2.7** (i) In the proof of (2.7), we need that  $\eta^\gamma < \eta$ , which implies that  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ .

(ii) The range of  $\eta$  in Theorem 1.9, namely,  $\eta \in (2, \infty)$ , is sharp by the present method. In fact, in the proof of Theorem 1.9, we need to find the biggest  $(\alpha, \beta_\alpha)$ -doubling ball  $B_x$  such that  $B_x \subseteq \eta^\gamma B_0$ , which implies that  $r_{B_x} + r_{B_0} \leq 2r_{B_0} \leq \eta^\gamma r_{B_0}$  with  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ . By letting  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$ , we have that  $\eta \geq 2$ . Thus,  $\eta \in (2, \infty)$ . However, it is unclear that whether the John–Nirenberg inequality (1.7) for the space  $\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$  holds true for  $\eta \in (1, 2]$ .

**Corollary 2.8** Let  $(X, d, \mu)$  be a metric measure space of non-homogeneous type. Then, for every  $\eta \in (2, \infty)$  and  $p \in [1, \infty)$ , there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that for any  $f \in \widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)$  and all balls  $B$ ,

$$\left[ \frac{1}{\mu(\eta B)} \int_B [f(x) - f_B]^p d\mu(x) \right]^{1/p} \leq C \|f\|_{\widetilde{\text{RBLO}}(\mu)},$$

where  $f_B$  is as in Remark 1.8(ii).

**Proof** From the situation of the corollary and Theorem 1.9, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\mu(\eta B)} \int_B [f(x) - f_B]^p d\mu(x) \\ &= \frac{p}{\mu(\eta B)} \int_0^\infty t^{p-1} \mu(\{x \in B : [f(x) - f_B] > t\}) dt \\ &\leq 2p \int_0^\infty t^{p-1} e^{-ct/\|f\|_{\text{RBLO}(\mu)}} dt \\ &= \frac{2p\Gamma(p)}{c^p} \|f\|_{\text{RBLO}(\mu)}^p, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of Corollary 2.8. ■

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