

Recall Some notations.

Let  $G_{open} \subset \mathbb{R}^n, n \geq 1$ .

$C^\infty(G) = \{u: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : u \text{ is infinitely differentiable}\}$

$C_0^\infty(G) = \{u \in C^\infty(G) \text{ s.t. } u(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in G - C\}$   
 $C$ : a compact subset of  $G$

$L^1_p(G) = \{u: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } \int_G |u|^p dx < \infty\}$  for  $1 \leq p < \infty$

$L^1_{loc}(G) = \{u: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } u \in L^1(V) \text{ for all } V \subset \bar{V}_{compact} \subset G\}$   
 $= \{\text{locally integrable functions}\}$

$W^k_p(G)$   $\leftarrow$  Banach spaces  $= \{u \in L^1_{loc}(G) \text{ s.t. } D^\alpha u \text{ exists in the weak sense and } D^\alpha u \in L^1_p(G) \text{ for all } |\alpha| \leq k\}$

$H^k = W^k_2(G)$   $\leftarrow$  Hilbert spaces  $= \{u \in L^1_{loc}(G) \text{ s.t. } D^\alpha u \text{ exists in the weak sense and } D^\alpha u \in L^2(G) \text{ for all } |\alpha| \leq k\}$

$H^0 = L^2(G)$  Hilbert spaces

Norm on  $W^k_p(G)$ :  $\|u\|_{k,p} = \left[ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \int |D^\alpha u|^p dx \right]^{1/p}, 1 \leq p \leq \infty, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Weak-derivatives: Let  $u \in L^1_{loc}(G)$ . Then  $w \in L^1_{loc}(G)$  is the  $\alpha^{th}$ -weak partial derivative of  $u$  if

$$\int_G u D^\alpha \phi dx = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_G w \phi dx \text{ for all } \phi \in C_0^\infty(G)$$

$$W^0_k(G) = \overline{C_0^\infty(G)} \text{ in } (W^k_p(G), \|\cdot\|_{k,p})$$

$$L^2(G) = \overline{C_0^\infty(G)} \text{ in } (L^2(G), \|\cdot\|_2)$$

Note:  $W^0_k(G) = \{u \in W^k_p(G) \text{ s.t. } D^\alpha u = 0 \text{ on } \partial G \text{ for all } |\alpha| \leq k-1\}$

# Some Useful Inequalities

(2)

① Hölder's Inequality: Assume  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ ,  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ .

Then if  $u \in L_p(G)$  and  $v \in L_q(G)$ , we have

$$\int_G |uv| dx \leq \|u\|_{L_p(G)} \|v\|_{L_q(G)}$$

② Minkowski's Inequality Assume  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  and  $u, v \in L_p(G)$ . Then

$$\|u+v\|_{L_p(G)} \leq \|u\|_{L_p(G)} + \|v\|_{L_p(G)}$$

③ Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality Let  $X$  be an inner product space, and  $x, y \in X$

Then  $|\langle x, y \rangle| \leq |\langle x, x \rangle|^{1/2} |\langle y, y \rangle|^{1/2}$

For example,  $X = L_2(G)$ ,  $f, g \in L_2(G)$  (real spaces)

$$\left| \int_G fg dx \right| \leq \left( \int_G f^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_G g^2 dx \right)^{1/2}$$

④ Generalized Hölder's Inequality

$$\int_G |u_1 \dots u_m| dx \leq \|u_1\|_{L_{p_1}(G)} \dots \|u_m\|_{L_{p_m}(G)}$$

where  $u_k \in L_{p_k}(G)$ ,  $\infty \geq p_1, \dots, p_m \geq 1$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{p_k} = 1.$$

# Sobolev's Inequalities - to ~~discover~~ discover embeddings of various Sobolev spaces, If $u \in W_p^1(G)$ , does it belong to certain other spaces? ②

## 1. Gagliardo - Nirenberg - Sobolev Inequality for $W_p^1(G)$ , $G_{\text{open}} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , $n \geq 1$

Theorem 1 Assume  $1 \leq p < n$ . There exists a constant  $C$ , depending only on  $p$  and  $n$  such that

$$\|u\|_{L_{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad \text{for all } u \in C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

where  $p^* = \frac{np}{n-p}$ .

Note: The constant  $C$  does not depend on the size of the support of  $u$ .

## 2. Poincaré - Friedrichs Inequality for $\dot{W}_p^1(G)$ , $G_{\text{open, bounded}} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , $n \geq 1$

Theorem 2 Assume  $1 \leq p < n$ . There exists a constant  $C$ , depending only on  $p, q, n$ , and  $G$  such that

$$\|u\|_{L_q(G)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L_p(G)} \quad \text{for all } u \in \dot{W}_p^1(G) \\ \text{for all } q \in [1, p^*]$$

## Theorem 3 $\dot{W}_2^1(G)$ , $G_{\text{open, bounded}} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , $n \geq 1$ , $p=2$

Then there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$\|u\|_{L_2(G)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L_2(G)} \quad \text{for all } u \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)$$

References: L.C. Evans, Partial Differential Equations, page 277

Zeidler, page 136

D. Siegel, page 68

**DEFINITION.** If  $1 \leq p < n$ , the Sobolev conjugate of  $p$  is

$$(8) \quad p^* := \frac{np}{n-p}.$$

Note that

$$(9) \quad \frac{1}{p^*} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{n}, \quad p^* > p.$$

The foregoing scaling analysis shows that the estimate (5) can only possibly be true for  $q = p^*$ . Next we prove this inequality is in fact valid.

**THEOREM 1** (Gagliardo–Nirenberg–Sobolev inequality). Assume  $1 \leq p < n$ . There exists a constant  $C$ , depending only on  $p$  and  $n$ , such that

$$(10) \quad \|u\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)},$$

for all  $u \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Now we really do need  $u$  to have compact support for (10) to hold, as the example  $u \equiv 1$  shows. But remarkably the constant here does not depend at all upon the size of the support of  $u$ .

**Proof.** 1. First assume  $p = 1$ .

Since  $u$  has compact support, for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  we have

$$u(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_i} u_{x_i}(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, y_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) dy_i;$$

and so

$$|u(x)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du(x_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, x_n)| dy_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n).$$

Consequently

$$(11) \quad |u(x)|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du(x_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, x_n)| dy_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}.$$

Integrate this inequality with respect to  $x_1$ :

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx_1 &\leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} dx_1 \\ &= \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_1 \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{i=2}^n \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} dx_1 \\ &\leq \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_1 \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \left( \prod_{i=2}^n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 dy_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

the last inequality resulting from the general Hölder inequality (§B.2).

Now integrate (12) with respect to  $x_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx_1 dx_2 & \leq \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 dy_2 \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq 2}}^n I_i^{\frac{1}{n-1}} dx_2, \end{aligned}$$

for

$$I_1 := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_1, \quad I_i := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 dy_i \quad (i = 3, \dots, n).$$

Applying once more the extended Hölder inequality, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx_1 dx_2 & \leq \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 dy_2 \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dy_1 dx_2 \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \\ & \quad \prod_{i=3}^n \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 dx_2 dy_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

We continue by integrating with respect to  $x_3, \dots, x_n$ , eventually to find

$$\begin{aligned} (13) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx & \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Du| dx_1 \dots dy_i \dots dx_n \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \\ & = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du| dx \right)^{\frac{n}{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

This is estimate (10) for  $p = 1$ .

2. Consider now the case that  $1 < p < n$ . We apply estimate (13) to  $v := |u|^\gamma$ , where  $\gamma > 1$  is to be selected. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (14) \quad \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\frac{\gamma n}{n-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} & \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |D|u|^\gamma| dx = \gamma \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\gamma-1} |Du| dx \\ & \leq \gamma \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{(\gamma-1)\frac{p}{p-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \end{aligned}$$

We choose  $\gamma$  so that  $\frac{\gamma n}{n-1} = (\gamma-1)\frac{p}{p-1}$ . That is, we set

$$\gamma := \frac{p(n-1)}{n-p} > 1,$$

in which case  $\frac{\gamma n}{n-1} = (\gamma - 1)\frac{p}{p-1} = \frac{np}{n-p} = p^*$ . Thus, in view of (5), estimate (14) becomes

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{p^*} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p^*}} \leq C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \quad \square$$

**THEOREM 2** (Estimates for  $W^{1,p}$ ,  $1 \leq p < n$ ). *Let  $U$  be a bounded, open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and suppose  $\partial U$  is  $C^1$ . Assume  $1 \leq p < n$ , and  $u \in W^{1,p}(U)$ . Then  $u \in L^{p^*}(U)$ , with the estimate*

$$(15) \quad \|u\|_{L^{p^*}(U)} \leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(U)},$$

the constant  $C$  depending only on  $p, n$ , and  $U$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\partial U$  is  $C^1$ , there exists according to Theorem 1 in §5.4 an extension  $Eu = \bar{u} \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , such that

$$(16) \quad \begin{cases} \bar{u} = u \text{ in } U, \bar{u} \text{ has compact support, and} \\ \|\bar{u}\|_{W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(U)}. \end{cases}$$

Because  $\bar{u}$  has compact support, we know from Theorem 1 in §5.3 that there exist functions  $u_m \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  ( $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ) such that

$$(17) \quad u_m \rightarrow \bar{u} \quad \text{in } W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Now according to Theorem 1,  $\|u_m - u_l\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|Du_m - Du_l\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}$  for all  $l, m \geq 1$ . Thus

$$(18) \quad u_m \rightarrow \bar{u} \quad \text{in } L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

as well. Since Theorem 1 also implies  $\|u_m\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|Du_m\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ , assertions (17) and (18) yield the bound

$$\|\bar{u}\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|D\bar{u}\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}.$$

This inequality and (16) complete the proof.  $\square$

**THEOREM 3** (Estimates for  $W_0^{1,p}$ ,  $1 \leq p < n$ ). *Assume  $U$  is a bounded, open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Suppose  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(U)$  for some  $1 \leq p < n$ . Then we have the estimate*

$$\|u\|_{L^q(U)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L^p(U)}$$

for each  $q \in [1, p^*]$ , the constant  $C$  depending only on  $p, q, n$  and  $U$ .

Step 1  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{p/n} dx \leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du| dx \right)^{n/n-1}$ , (case  $p=1$ )

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Step 2  
For general  $p$ , applying (\*) for  $v = |u|^\gamma$  where  $\gamma > 1$  to be selected

$$|D|u|^\gamma| = \gamma |u|^{\gamma-1} |Du|$$

Then  $\left[ \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{p/n} dx \right]^{n-1} \leq \gamma \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\gamma-1} |Du| dx$

$$\leq \gamma \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (|u|^{\gamma-1})^{p/n} dx \right)^{n-1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du|^p dx \right)^{1/n}$$

Choose  $\gamma$  so that  $\frac{\gamma n}{n-1} = (\gamma-1) \frac{p}{n-1}$   $\gamma = \frac{p(n-1)}{n-p} > 1$

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{p^*} dx \right)^{1/p^*} \leq \gamma \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Du|^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

$$\frac{\gamma n}{n-1} = \frac{np}{n-p}$$

$$\frac{n-1}{n} = \frac{p-1}{p} = \frac{np-p-np+n}{np}$$

Next, going from  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  to  $W_p^1(G)$

$u \in W_p^1(G)$ ,  $\exists \{u_m\} \subset C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$   $\|u_m - u\|_{1,p} \xrightarrow{m \rightarrow \infty} 0$

Extend  $u_m = 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n - \bar{G}$ . we get the  $\|u\|_{L_{p^*}(G)} \leq C \|Du\|_{L_p(G)}$

$\|u\|_{L_q(G)} \leq C \|u\|_{L_{p^*}(G)}$  if  $1 \leq q \leq p^*$ . We get the Poincaré.

### An application of Theorem 1

Let  $G$  open, bounded and  $\partial G$  is  $C^1$ .  $1 \leq p < \infty$

Then if  $u \in W^{1,p}(G)$ ,  $u \in L_{p^*}(G)$  and

$$\|u\|_{L_{p^*}(G)} \leq C \|u\|_{1,p}$$

Constant  $C$  depends on  $p, n, G$ .

Case  $p > n$  Morrey's Inequality (Evans' book) <sup>See</sup>

If  $u \in W^{1,p}(G)$  then  $u \in C^{0,\alpha}(G)$

Hölder continuous

Given  $G$  open, bounded.

Application The existence Theorem for the Dirichlet Problem.

### Theorem 4 (Dirichlet Principle)

Let  $G$  be a nonempty bounded open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n=1,2,\dots$

Given  $f \in L_2(G)$ ,  $g \in W_2^1(G)$

Consider the generalized Dirichlet problem

$$\min_{u-g \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)} \frac{1}{2} \int_G \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial_j u)^2 dx - \int_G f u dx \quad (1^*)$$

along with the generalized boundary-value problem

$$\int_G \sum_j \partial_j u \partial_j v dx = \int_G f v dx \quad \text{for all } v \in \dot{W}_2^1(G) \quad (2^*)$$

$u-g \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)$



Notation " $u-g \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)$ " corresponds to the boundary condition (8)  
 $u-g=0$  on  $\partial G$ .

Conclusion (1) The problem (1\*) has a unique solution  $u \in W_2^1(G)$   
 (2) This is also the unique solution  $u \in W_2^1(G)$  for (2\*)

Proof Recall Main Theorem on Quadratic variational Problem

$H$ : Hilbert,  $a: H \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  symmetric, bilinear, continuous, coercive and  $b \in H^*$

Then the variational problem  $\min_{v \in H} \frac{1}{2} a(v,v) - b(v)$

has a unique solution

~~$a(u,v) = \int_G \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j u \partial_j v dx$~~  for all  $u, v \in W_2^1(G)$

$$a(u,v) = \int_G \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j u \partial_j v dx, \quad b(v) = \int_G f v dx$$

Let  $w = u-g \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)$  then (1\*) can be rewritten as

$$\min_w \frac{1}{2} a(w+g, w+g) - b_1(w+g), \quad w \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)$$

$$\min_w \frac{1}{2} a(w, w) + \underbrace{(-a(w, g) + b_1(w))}_{b(w)}$$

$$\min_{w \in \dot{W}_2^1(G)} \frac{1}{2} a(w, w) - b(w)$$

$$H = \dot{W}_2^1(G)$$

Verify  $a$  is bilinear, symmetric easy ✓

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Verify  $a$  is bounded

$$|a(v, w)| \leq \int_G \sum_j |\partial_j v \partial_j w| dx$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Cauchy-Schwarz}}{\leq} \left[ \int_G |\partial_j v|^2 dx \right]^{1/2} \left[ \int_G |\partial_j w|^2 dx \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\leq N \|v\|_{1,2} \|w\|_{1,2}$$

Verify  $a$  is coercive

$$a(v, v) = \sum_G (\partial_j v)^2 dx \geq \frac{c}{c+1} \|v\|_{1,2}^2 \text{ for all } v \in H$$

Verify  $b \in H^*$   $b$  is linear ✓  
 $b$  is bounded ✓