

If the domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is bounded, then  $L^q(\Omega) \subseteq L^{p^*}(\Omega)$  for every  $q \in [1, p^*]$ . Using the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality we obtain

**Corollary 6.2 (embedding).** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded open domain with  $C^1$  boundary, and assume  $1 \leq p < n$ . Then, for every  $q \in [1, p^*]$  with  $p^* \doteq \frac{np}{n-p}$ , there exists a constant  $C$  such that*

$$\|f\|_{L^q(\Omega)} \leq C \|f\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \quad \text{for all } f \in W^{1,p}(\Omega). \quad (6.27)$$

**Proof.** Let  $\tilde{\Omega} \doteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; d(x, \Omega) < 1\}$  be the open neighborhood of radius one around the set  $\Omega$ . By Theorem 4.3 there exists a bounded extension operator  $E : W^{1,p}(\Omega) \mapsto W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , with the property that  $Ef$  is supported inside  $\tilde{\Omega}$ , for every  $f \in W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . Applying the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality to  $Ef$ , for suitable constants  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  we obtain

$$\|f\|_{L^q(\Omega)} \leq C_1 \|f\|_{L^{p^*}(\Omega)} \leq C_2 \|Ef\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C_3 \|f\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)}.$$

### 6.3 High order Sobolev estimates

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded open set with  $C^1$  boundary, and let  $u \in W^{k,p}(\Omega)$ . The number

$$k - \frac{n}{p}$$

will be called the **net smoothness** of  $u$ . As in Fig. 10, let  $m$  be the integer part and let  $0 \leq \gamma < 1$  be the fractional part of this number, so that

$$k - \frac{n}{p} = m + \gamma. \quad (6.28)$$

In the following, we say that a Banach space  $X$  is **continuously embedded** in a Banach space  $Y$  if  $X \subseteq Y$  and there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$\|u\|_Y \leq C \|u\|_X \quad \text{for all } u \in X.$$

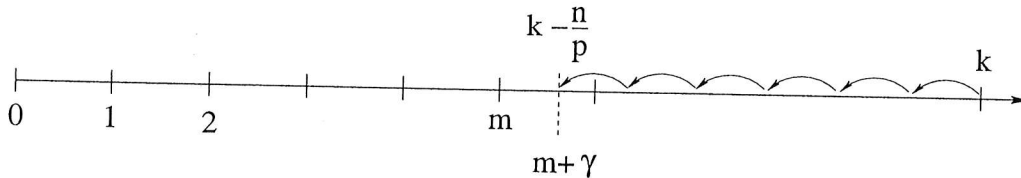


Figure 10: Computing the “net smoothness” of a function  $f \in W^{k,p} \subset C^{m,\gamma}$ .

**Theorem 6.3 (general Sobolev embeddings).** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded open set with  $C^1$  boundary, and consider the space  $W^{k,p}(\Omega)$ . Let  $m, \gamma$  be as in (6.28). Then the following continuous embeddings hold.*

(i) If  $k - \frac{n}{p} < 0$  then  $W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq L^q(\Omega)$ , with  $\frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{k}{n} = \frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{n}{p} - k \right)$ .

(ii) If  $k - \frac{n}{p} = 0$ , then  $W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq L^q(\Omega)$  for every  $1 \leq q < \infty$ .

(iii) If  $m \geq 0$  and  $\gamma > 0$ , then  $W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq C^{m,\gamma}(\Omega)$ .

(iv) If  $m \geq 1$  and  $\gamma = 0$ , then for every  $0 \leq \gamma' < 1$  one has  $W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq C^{m-1,\gamma'}(\Omega)$ .

**Remark 6.1** Functions in a Sobolev space are only defined up to a set of measure zero. More precisely, by saying that  $W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq C^{m,\gamma}(\Omega)$  we mean the following. For every  $u \in W^{k,p}(\Omega)$  there exists a function  $\tilde{u} \in C^{m,\gamma}(\Omega)$  such that  $\tilde{u}(x) = u(x)$  for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ . Moreover, there exists a constant  $C$ , depending on  $k, p, m, \gamma$  but not on  $u$ , such that

$$\|u\|_{C^{m,\gamma}(\Omega)} \leq C \|\tilde{u}\|_{W^{k,p}(\Omega)}.$$

**Proof of the theorem. 1.** We start by proving (i). Assume  $k - \frac{n}{p} < 0$  and let  $u \in W^{k,p}(\Omega)$ . Since  $D^\alpha u \in W^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for every  $|\alpha| \leq k-1$ , the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality yields

$$\|D^\alpha u\|_{L^{p^*}(\Omega)} \leq C \|u\|_{W^{k,p}(\Omega)} \quad |\alpha| \leq k-1.$$

Therefore  $u \in W^{k-1,p^*}(\Omega)$ , where  $p^*$  is the Sobolev conjugate of  $p$ .

This argument can be iterated. Set  $p_1 = p^*$ ,  $p_2 = p_1^*$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $p_j = p_{j-1}^*$ . By (6.17) this means

$$\frac{1}{p_1} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{n}, \quad \dots \quad \frac{1}{p_j} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{j}{n},$$

provided that  $jp < n$ . Using the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality several times, we obtain

$$W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subseteq W^{k-1,p_1}(\Omega) \subseteq W^{k-2,p_2}(\Omega) \subseteq \dots \subseteq W^{k-j,p_j}(\Omega). \quad (6.29)$$

After  $k$  steps we find that  $u \in W^{0,p_k}(\Omega) = L^{p_k}(\Omega)$ , with  $\frac{1}{p_k} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{k}{n} = \frac{1}{q}$ . Hence  $p_k = q$  and (i) is proved.

2. In the special case  $kp = n$ , repeating the above argument, after  $k-1$  steps we find

$$\frac{1}{p_{k-1}} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{k-1}{n} = \frac{1}{n}.$$

Therefore  $p_{k-1} = n$  and

$$W^{k,p}(\Omega) \subset W^{1,n}(\Omega) \subseteq W^{1,n-\varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Using the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality once again, we obtain

$$u \in W^{1,n-\varepsilon}(\Omega) \subseteq L^q(\Omega) \quad q = \frac{n(n-\varepsilon)}{n-(n-\varepsilon)} = \frac{n^2 - \varepsilon n}{\varepsilon}.$$

$$u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega), \quad \int_{\Omega} \exp\left(\frac{|u|}{c_1 \|Du\|_n}\right)^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \leq c_2 |\Omega|$$


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### Compactness

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two Banach space. We say that  $X$  is compactly embedded in  $Y$ , written  $X \hookrightarrow\hookrightarrow Y$  or  $X \hookrightarrow Y$

If (i)  $\|u\|_Y \leq C \|u\|_X$

(ii) each bdd sequence in  $X$  is precompact in  $Y$ , i.e.  $\exists$  a convergent subsequence in  $Y$

Theorem: Assume that  $\Omega$  is ~~compact~~ <sup>bounded</sup> open,  $\partial\Omega \in C^1$ ,  $1 \leq p < n$   
 Then  $W_{(\Omega)}^{1,p} \hookrightarrow L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $\forall 1 \leq q < p^* = \frac{pn}{n-p}$

Proof: By extension, assume that  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $u_m$  compact support in bounded  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .  $\sup_m \|u_m\|_{W^{1,p}(V)} < +\infty$

Let us consider  $u_m^\varepsilon = \eta_\varepsilon * u_m$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$

Claim I:  $u_m^\varepsilon \rightarrow u_m$  in  $L^q(V)$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , uniformly in  $m$

Proof: 
$$\begin{aligned} u_m^\varepsilon - u_m(x) &= \int_{B(0,1)} \eta(y) (u_m(x-\varepsilon y) - u_m(x)) dy \\ &= \int_{B(0,1)} \eta(y) \int_0^1 \frac{d}{dt} (u_m(x-\varepsilon ty)) dt dy \end{aligned}$$

$$= -\varepsilon \int_{B(0,1)} \eta(y) \int_0^1 Du_m(x-ety) \cdot y \, dt \, dy$$

$$\int_V |u_m^\varepsilon - u_m(x)| \, dx \leq \varepsilon \int_{B(0,1)} \eta(y) \int_0^1 \int_V |Du_m(x-ety)| \, dx \, dt \, dy$$

$$\leq \varepsilon \int_V |Du_m(z)| \, dz$$

$$\|u_m^\varepsilon - u_m\|_{L^1(V)} \leq \varepsilon \|Du_m\|_{L^1(V)} \leq \varepsilon C \|Du_m\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

So  $u_m^\varepsilon \rightarrow u_m$  in  $L^1(V)$ , uniformly in  $m$   
in  $L^q(V)$ ,

Next  
Claim 2. For each fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $u_m^\varepsilon$  is uniformly bdd and equicontinuous

Indeed,  $|u_m^\varepsilon(x)| \leq \|\eta_\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty} \|u_m\|_{L^1} \leq \frac{C}{\varepsilon^n} < +\infty$

$$|Du_m^\varepsilon(x)| \leq \frac{C}{\varepsilon^{n+1}} < +\infty$$

Now. Fix  $\delta > 0$ , choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  s.t.

$$\|u_m^\varepsilon - u_m\|_{L^q(V)} < \delta/2, \text{ uniformly in } m \text{ by claim 1}$$

Now  $u_m^\varepsilon(x)$  have compact support in  $V$ , using claim 2.

$\exists u_{m_j}^\varepsilon$ , converges uniformly

$$\lim_{j,k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{m_j}^\varepsilon - u_{m_k}^\varepsilon\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)} = 0$$

Hence  $\lim_{j,k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{m_j}^\varepsilon - u_{m_k}^\varepsilon\|_{L^q(V)} \leq \delta$

Now let  $\delta = \frac{1}{2^k}$ , by standard diagonal process  $\exists u_m$

s.t.

$$\limsup_{l, k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{m_l} - u_{m_k}\|_{L^p(\Omega)} = 0$$

Remark 1.  $q = p^*$ , no compactness

2.  $W_0^{1,p}(U) \subset\subset L^p(U)$ , even if  $\partial U$  is not  $C^1$

Consequence of Compactness:

### 1) Poincaré Inequality

$$\|u - \bar{u}\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq C \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega)}$$

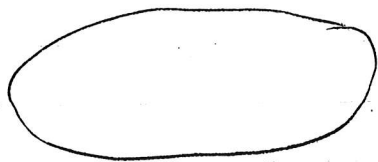
Proof: By contradiction  $\Rightarrow u_k \rightarrow v$

$$(\bar{v}) = 0, \int \nabla v = 0, \|v\|_{L^p} = 1$$

claim:  $Dv = 0$  a.e.,  $\Omega$  connected  $\Rightarrow v \equiv \text{Constant}$

Proof: 1.  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $u_\varepsilon = \eta_\varepsilon * u \Rightarrow Du_\varepsilon = 0$  in  $\Omega_\varepsilon = \{x \in \Omega \mid d(x, \partial\Omega) > \varepsilon\}$

So  $u_\varepsilon \equiv C_\varepsilon$  in each connected component of  $\Omega_\varepsilon$



2. Consider  $x \neq y \in \Omega$ . Since  $\Omega$  is connected,  $\exists$  a polygonal path  $\Gamma$  joining  $x$  with  $y$  and remaining inside  $\Omega$ . Let  $\delta = \min_{z \in \Gamma} d(z, \partial\Omega)$

Then  $\varepsilon < \delta$ ,  $\Gamma$  is in  $\Omega_\varepsilon \Rightarrow u_\varepsilon(x) = u_\varepsilon(y)$

3. Call  $\bar{u}(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u_\varepsilon(x)$ .  $\bar{u}$  is a constant in  $\Omega$ . Moreover  $\bar{u}(x) = u(x)$  for every Lebesgue point of  $u$ , hence a.e. in  $\Omega$  #

Corollary 1

$$\|u - \bar{u}_{B(x,r)}\|_{L^p} \leq C r \|Du\|_{L^p(B(x,r))}$$

Scaling.

2) The space  $H^{-1}$

$$H^{-1} = (H_0^1(\Omega))^*$$

$$H_0^1(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega) \subset H^{-1}(\Omega)$$

$$\|f\|_{H^{-1}(\Omega)} = \sup \left\{ \langle f, u \rangle \mid u \in H_0^1(\Omega), \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq 1 \right\}$$

Theorem (Characterization of  $H^{-1}$ ).

(i) Assume  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . Then  $\exists f^0, f^1, \dots, f^n$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\langle f, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f^0 v + \sum_{i=1}^n f^i v_{x_i}, \quad v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \quad (1)$$

$$(ii) \|f\|_{H^{-1}(\Omega)} = \inf \left\{ \left( \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=0}^n |f^i|^2 \right)^{1/2} \mid f \text{ satisfies (1) for } f^0, \dots, f^n \in L^2(\Omega) \right\}$$

$$(iii) (v, u)_{L^2(\Omega)} = \langle v, u \rangle, \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega), v \in L^2(\Omega) \subset H^{-1}(\Omega)$$

Proof: 1. Given  $u, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ , inner product  $(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} (uv + Du \cdot Dv)$ .  
Let  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . By Riesz Representation theorem

$$\exists! u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ satisfying } (u, v) = \langle f, v \rangle, \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega). \quad (\langle f, v \rangle, \text{ dual})$$

$$\int_{\Omega} Du \cdot Dv + uv \, dx = \langle f, v \rangle$$

$$\text{So } \langle f, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f^0 v + \sum_{i=1}^n f^i v_{x_i} \, dx, \quad f^0 = u, f^i = (Du)_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \|f\|_{H^{-1}} \geq \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}$$

2. Assume now  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$

$$\langle f, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} g^0 v + \sum_{i=1}^n g^i v_{x_i} dx$$

$$g^0, \dots, g^n \in L^2(\Omega)$$

$$v = u \Rightarrow$$

$$\int_{\Omega} |Du|^2 + |u|^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} \sum |g^i|^2 dx$$

$$|\langle f, v \rangle| \leq \left( \int_{\Omega} |fv|^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad \#$$

Thus the distribution  $f : \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is bounded with respect to the  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ -norm on the dense subset  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ . It therefore extends in a unique way to a bounded linear functional on  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ , which we still denote by  $f$ . Moreover,

$$\|f\|_{H^{-1}} \leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^n \int_{\Omega} f_i^2 dx \right)^{1/2},$$

which proves inequality in the other direction of (4.9).  $\square$

The dual space of  $H^1(\Omega)$  cannot be identified with a space of distributions on  $\Omega$  because  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  is not a dense subspace. Any linear functional  $f \in H^1(\Omega)^*$  defines a distribution by restriction to  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ , but the same distribution arises from different linear functionals. Conversely, any distribution  $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$  that is bounded with respect to the  $H^1$ -norm extends uniquely to a bounded linear functional on  $H_0^1$ , but the extension of the functional to the orthogonal complement  $(H_0^1)^\perp$  in  $H^1$  is arbitrary (subject to maintaining its boundedness). Roughly speaking, distributions are defined on functions whose boundary values or trace is zero, but general linear functionals on  $H^1$  depend on the trace of the function on the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ .

EXAMPLE 4.8. The one-dimensional Sobolev space  $H^1(0, 1)$  is embedded in the space  $C([0, 1])$  of continuous functions, since  $p > n$  for  $p = 2$  and  $n = 1$ . In fact, according to the Sobolev embedding theorem  $H^1(0, 1) \hookrightarrow C^{0,1/2}([0, 1])$ , as can be seen directly from the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - f(y)| &\leq \int_y^x |f'(t)| dt \\ &\leq \left( \int_y^x 1 dt \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_y^x |f'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left( \int_0^1 |f'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} |x - y|^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

As usual, we identify an element of  $H^1(0, 1)$  with its continuous representative in  $C([0, 1])$ . By the trace theorem,

$$H_0^1(0, 1) = \{u \in H^1(0, 1) : u(0) = 0, u(1) = 0\}.$$

The orthogonal complement is

$$H_0^1(0, 1)^\perp = \{u \in H^1(0, 1) : \text{such that } (u, v)_{H^1} = 0 \text{ for every } v \in H_0^1(0, 1)\}.$$

This condition implies that  $u \in H_0^1(0, 1)^\perp$  if and only if

$$\int_0^1 (uv + u'v') dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } v \in H_0^1(0, 1),$$

which means that  $u$  is a weak solution of the ODE

$$-u'' + u = 0.$$

It follows that  $u(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{-x}$ , so

$$H^1(0, 1) = H_0^1(0, 1) \oplus E$$

where  $E$  is the two dimensional subspace of  $H^1(0, 1)$  spanned by the orthogonal vectors  $\{e^x, e^{-x}\}$ . Thus,

$$H^1(0, 1)^* = H^{-1}(0, 1) \oplus E^*.$$



If  $f \in H^1(0, 1)^*$  and  $u = u_0 + c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{-x}$  where  $u_0 \in H_0^1(0, 1)$ , then

$$\langle f, u \rangle = \langle f_0, u_0 \rangle + a_1 c_1 + a_2 c_2$$

where  $f_0 \in H^{-1}(0, 1)$  is the restriction of  $f$  to  $H_0^1(0, 1)$  and

$$a_1 = \langle f, e^x \rangle, \quad a_2 = \langle f, e^{-x} \rangle.$$

The constants  $a_1, a_2$  determine how the functional  $f \in H^1(0, 1)^*$  acts on the boundary values  $u(0), u(1)$  of a function  $u \in H^1(0, 1)$ .

#### 4.4. The Poincaré inequality for $H_0^1(\Omega)$

We cannot, in general, estimate a norm of a function in terms of a norm of its derivative since constant functions have zero derivative. Such estimates are possible if we add an additional condition that eliminates non-zero constant functions. For example, we can require that the function vanishes on the boundary of a domain, or that it has zero mean. We typically also need some sort of boundedness condition on the domain of the function, since even if a function vanishes at some point we cannot expect to estimate the size of a function over arbitrarily large distances by the size of its derivative. The resulting inequalities are called Poincaré inequalities.

The inequality we prove here is a basic example of a Poincaré inequality. We say that an open set  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is bounded in some direction if there is a unit vector  $e \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and constants  $a, b$  such that  $a < x \cdot e < b$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ .

**THEOREM 4.9.** *Suppose that  $\Omega$  is an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that is bounded in some direction. Then there is a constant  $C$  such that*

$$(4.11) \quad \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx \leq C \int_{\Omega} |Du|^2 dx \quad \text{for all } u \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

**PROOF.** Since  $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$  is dense in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ , it is sufficient to prove the inequality for  $u \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ . The inequality is invariant under rotations and translations, so we can assume without loss of generality that the domain is bounded in the  $x_n$ -direction and lies between  $0 < x_n < a$ .

Writing  $x = (x', x_n)$  where  $x' = (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$ , we have

$$|u(x', x_n)| = \left| \int_0^{x_n} \partial_n u(x', t) dt \right| \leq \int_0^a |\partial_n u(x', t)| dt.$$

The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality implies that

$$\int_0^a |\partial_n u(x', t)| dt = \int_0^a 1 \cdot |\partial_n u(x', t)| dt \leq a^{1/2} \left( \int_0^a |\partial_n u(x', t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2}.$$

Hence,

$$|u(x', x_n)|^2 \leq a \int_0^a |\partial_n u(x', t)|^2 dt.$$

Integrating this inequality with respect to  $x_n$ , we get

$$\int_0^a |u(x', x_n)|^2 dx_n \leq a^2 \int_0^a |\partial_n u(x', t)|^2 dt.$$

A further integration with respect to  $x'$  gives

$$\int_{\Omega} |u(x)|^2 dx \leq a^2 \int_{\Omega} |\partial_n u(x)|^2 dx.$$

Since  $|\partial_n u| \leq |Du|$ , the result follows with  $C = a^2$ .  $\square$

## Part IV Weak solutions of 2nd order Elliptic Equations ( $L^2$ -theory)

In this part, we consider

$$\begin{cases} Lu = f(x) & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}, \quad \Omega \text{ bounded domain}$$

$$Lu = -\partial_i (a^{ij} \partial_j u) + b^i \partial_i u + cu \quad (\text{divergence form})$$

$$Lu = -a^{ij} \partial_{ij} u + b^i \partial_i u + cu \quad (\text{non-divergence form})$$

$a_{ij}(x)$  a matrix of measurable function, uniformly elliptic

$$\lambda |\xi|^2 \leq a^{ij}(x) \xi_i \xi_j \leq \Lambda |\xi|^2, \quad \lambda \leq 1 \leq \Lambda$$

If coefficients  $\in C^1$  and  $u \in C^2$ , div-form = non-diverg

In general, no

"Thm" Assume "nice" coefficients, nice  $\Omega$  GT, chapter

$$(1) \forall f \in C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega}), \exists! u \in C^{2,\alpha}(\bar{\Omega}) \quad (\text{Schauder Theory})$$

$$(2) \forall f \in L^p(\Omega), \exists! u \in W^{2,p}(\Omega) \cap W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \quad (L^p\text{-theory})$$

$$(3) \forall f \in H^{-1}(\Omega), \exists! u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ for } \quad \text{GT chapter 9}$$

divergence form GT chapter 8

Evans chapter 6.

Weak sol'ns  $a^{ij} \in L^\infty, b^i, c \in L^\infty, f \in L^2(\Omega)$

Definition: (1) The bilinear form

$$B(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i,j} a^{ij} u_{x_i} v_{x_j} + \sum_{i=1}^n b^i u_{x_i} v + cuv \, dx$$

$$\forall u, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

(2) We say that  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  is a weak sol'n if

$$B[u, v] = (f, v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

More generally, we can consider

$$Lu = f^0 - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{x_i} f^i \in H^{-1}(\Omega).$$

$$\begin{cases} Lu = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Find  $w \in H^1(\Omega)$ .

$$\begin{cases} L\tilde{u} = f - Lw & \text{in } \Omega \\ \tilde{u} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

$$Lw \in H^{-1}(\Omega).$$

Remark:  $B(u, v) \neq B(v, u)$ , non-symmetric

Lax-Milgram Thm: Let  $H$  be a Hilbert space, Let  $B: H \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that

① bilinear

② bounded  $|B[u, v]| \leq \alpha \|u\|_H \|v\|_H$

③ positive definite,  $B[u, u] \geq \beta \|u\|_H^2$

Then  $\forall f \in H^*$ , a bounded linear func on  $H$

$$\exists! u \in H \text{ s.t. } B[u, v] = \langle f, v \rangle, \quad \forall v \in H.$$

Proof: 1.  $\forall$  fixed  $u \in H$ ,  $v \rightarrow B[u, v]$  is a bdd linear fcnl on  $H$ . By Riesz Representation Thm  $\exists ! A(u) \in H$  s.t.

$$B[u, v] = (Au, v) \quad (\text{by positive definite})$$

2.  $A: H \rightarrow H$  is linear

3.  $A$  is bdd from above and below

$$(Au, Au) = B[u, Au] \leq \alpha \|u\| \|Au\|$$

$$\text{below } \beta \|u\|^2 \leq B[u, u] = (Au, u) \leq \|Au\| \|u\|$$

4.  $A$  is 1-1 and onto

$$\text{1-1: If } Au = A\tilde{u}, \quad 0 = \|Au - A\tilde{u}\| \geq \beta \|u - \tilde{u}\|$$

Onto: Range  $R(A)$  is closed, If  $Au_k \rightarrow w$ ,  $u_k$  Cauchy  $u_k \rightarrow \tilde{u}$ ,  $A\tilde{u} = w$

$R(A) = H$ . If not,  $\exists w_1 \in H \setminus R(A)$ , choose  $w_2 \in R(A)$  minimizing  $\{\text{dist}\{w_1, w_2\} \mid w_2 \in R(A)\}$

$$w = w_1 - w_2 \perp R(A), \quad w \neq 0$$

but  $\beta \|w\|^2 \leq B[w, w] = (Aw, w) = 0$ .

5. (Existence) For a given  $f$ , by Riesz Representation thm again,  $\exists ! w_f$ ,

$$\langle f, v \rangle = (w_f, v), \quad \forall v \in H$$

Let  $u = A^{-1}w$ , then  $\forall v \in H$

$$B[u, v] = (w, v) = \langle f, v \rangle$$

6. Uniqueness. If not,  $u, \tilde{u}$  are sol'n, then

$$0 = \langle f, u - \tilde{u} \rangle = B[u - \tilde{u}, u - \tilde{u}] = \beta \|u - \tilde{u}\|^2 = 0$$

Remark. ① we did not assume  $B$  is symmetric  
 ② Since  $\beta \|u\|^2 \leq B[u, u] = \langle f, u \rangle \leq \|f\|_{H^{-1}} \|u\|$   
 The map  $f \rightarrow u$  is bdd from  $H^*$  to  $H$

To apply Lax-Milgram thm to our weak formulation.  
 check

1. bilinear, easy
2. bounded, ok if coeff nice
3. positive definite, need modification

Ex.  $\Omega = (0, \pi)$ ,  $Lu = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}u + cu$ , constant

$u_k(x) = \sin kx$   
 $Lu_k = (k^2 + c)u_k$   
 If  $c = -k^2$  for some  $k$

③  $B[u, v] = \int \nabla u \cdot \nabla v + cu \cdot v$ ,  $B$  is not positive definite  
 $B[u_k, v] = 0, \forall v \in H_0^1$

- ① The problem has not uniqueness
- ② The problem has no existence for some  $f$   
 If  $\exists u, Lu = u_k$  then  
 $\|u_k\|^2 = (Lu, u_k) = (u, Lu_k) = 0$

Lemma: If  $\Omega$  is bdd, Lipschitz,  $a^{ij}, b^i, c \in L^\infty$ ,  $(a^{ij})$  unif. elliptic  
 $\exists \alpha, \beta > 0, \exists \gamma \geq 0$  s.t.  
 (i)  $|B[u, v]| \leq \alpha \|u\| \|v\| + \gamma \|u\| \|v\|$

Pf: (i) Take  $\alpha = C (\|a^i\|_{L^\infty} + \|b^i\|_{L^\infty} + \|c\|_\infty)$

$$(ii) \lambda \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} a^i \partial_i u \partial_j u = B[u, u] - \text{l.o.t.}$$

$$|\text{l.o.t.}| \leq C \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| |u| + |u|^2$$

$$\leq C_1 \varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + \left(\frac{C}{4\varepsilon} + C_1\right) \int_{\Omega} |u|^2$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{\lambda}{2C_1}, \quad \gamma = \frac{C_1}{4\varepsilon} + C_1 + \frac{\Delta}{2}$$

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + |u|^2 \leq B[u, u] + \gamma \|u\|_{L^2}^2$$

Rmk: If  $b, c$ , vanish, or small,  $c$  has good sign can take  $\gamma = 0$ .

First existence theorem:  $\exists \gamma \geq 0$  s.t.,  $\forall \mu \geq \gamma, \forall f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ ,

$\exists$  weak sol'n  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\begin{cases} Lu + \mu u = f & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Pf:  $B_\mu[u, v] = B[u, v] + \mu(u, v)$

check the conditions of Lax-Milgram Thm #

Rmk: This defines a linear operator

$$(L + \mu)^{-1}: H^{-1}(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega)$$

$$f \rightarrow u$$

It is a bounded linear map

$$\beta \|u\|^2 \leq B_\mu[u, u] = \langle f, u \rangle \leq \|f\|_{H^{-1}} \|u\|$$

$$\|u\| \leq \frac{1}{\beta} \|f\|_{H^{-1}(\Omega)}$$

Q: what happens without adding  $\gamma u$ ?

We will discuss it using Fredholm Alternative.

Review the previous example

$$Lu = -u'' + u = f \text{ has no sol'n if}$$

$$\|f\|^2 = (Lu, f) = (u, L^*f) = 0$$

$L^*$  - formal adjoint operator of  $L$

$$Lu = -\partial_i (a^{ij} \partial_j u) + b^i u_i + cu$$

$$(Lu, v) = \int a^{ij} \partial_j u \partial_i v + b^i \partial_i u v + \int c u v$$

$$= \int a^{ij} \partial_j u \partial_i v + \int \partial_i \partial_i (b^i v) + \int c u v$$

$$\Phi = (u, L^*v)$$

$$L^* = -\partial_i (a^{ij} \partial_j v) + b^i v_i + cu.$$

Compact operator: Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces. A bounded operator  $K: X \rightarrow Y$  is compact if any bdd sequence  $\{x_k\} \subset X$  has a subsequence  $\{x_{k_j}\}$  s.t.  $Kx_{k_j}$  converges in  $Y$ .

Ex: ①  $\text{id}: W^{1,p} \rightarrow L^p$

$$p < \frac{np}{n-p} \quad \text{Compact}$$

②  $Y = \mathbb{R}^n$

③  $X, Y = \ell^2, K(a_1, \dots) = (a_1, \frac{a_2}{2}, \frac{a_3}{3}, \dots)$

④  $X = H_0^1(\Omega), Y = L^2(\Omega)$

For compact operators, its range is almost finite-dimensional  
 adjoint operator  $K: H \rightarrow H$ ,  $(Kx, y) = (x, K^*y)$   
 Hilbert space

Fredholm Alternative:

Let  $H$  be a Hilbert space and  $K: H \rightarrow H$  a compact <sup>linear</sup> operator  
 Then  $\hookrightarrow$  kernel

$$(i) \dim N(I-K) = \dim N(I-K^*) < \infty$$

(ii)  $R(I-K)$  is closed and

$$R(I-K) = N(I-K^*)^\perp$$

In particular,  $R(I-K) = H$  iff  $N(I-K^*) = 0$ .

Either  $u - Ku = v$ , has a unique sol'n to  $\forall v \in H$ , and

or  $(I-K)^{-1} \exists$  bdd  
 $u - Ku = 0$  has a sol'n and  
 $u - Ku = v$  has a sol'n iff  $(v, w) = 0, \forall w - Kw = 0$

Second existence theorem (Fredholm Alternative)

Assume  $\Omega$  is bdd Lipschitz domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $a^{ij}, b^i, b_x^i, c \in L^\infty(\Omega)$   
 uniform elliptic. Exactly one of the following two cases holds:

Either  $\begin{cases} Lu = f \\ u = 0 \end{cases}$  has a unique weak sol'n  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \forall f \in L^2$

and  $\|L^{-1}\|$  is bdd

or  $\begin{cases} Lu = 0 \\ u = 0 \end{cases}$  has a nonzero weak sol'n and

$\begin{cases} Lu = f \\ u = 0 \end{cases}$  has a sol'n iff  $(f, v) = 0, \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  
 $L^*v = 0$ .



Proof: Let  $\gamma$  be from previous Thm, we know

$$(L+\gamma)^{-1} : H^1(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega)$$

is a bdd linear operator. Rewrite  $Lu = f$  as

$$(L+\gamma)u = \gamma u + f$$

apply  $(L+\gamma)^{-1}$  :

$$u = (L+\gamma)^{-1}(\gamma u + f)$$

$$u = \gamma (L+\gamma)^{-1}u = (L+\gamma)^{-1}f \quad (*)$$

$$\text{Let } K = \gamma(L+\gamma)^{-1}, \quad \tilde{f} = (L+\gamma)^{-1}f$$

Take  $H = H_0^1(\Omega)$  Then

$$K : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$$

claim:  $K$  is compact  $\Rightarrow \|Ku\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq C$

let  $\|u_n\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq C$ . Then  $\exists u_{n_j} \rightarrow u$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$

$$(L+\gamma)^{-1}u_{n_j} \text{ is cts} \Rightarrow (L+\gamma)^{-1}u_{n_j} \rightarrow (L+\gamma)^{-1}u$$

By Fredholm Alternative

either (\*) has a sol'n  $u \in H$ ,  $\forall \tilde{f} \in H$

or (\*) has a nonzero sol'n  $u \in H$ , for  $\tilde{f} = 0$

In the second case, (\*) has a sol'n iff  $(\tilde{f}, v) = 0, \forall v \in H$

$$v = K^*v \Leftrightarrow L^*v = 0.$$

Remark: 1.  $u \in L^2 \Rightarrow u \in H_0^1$  by equation

2. Unclear if one can allow  $f \in H^1$ . Make sense  $Kf$ .