

PDE Lecture

Sobolev spaces

April 14

Fourier methods and Sobolev spaces

Fourier characterization of Sobolev spaces

Recall:

Let $u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

$$u \in H^k(\mathbb{R}^n) \Leftrightarrow (1 + |\xi|^k) \hat{u} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

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Fractional Sobolev norm

$$\|u\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)} := \|(1 + |\xi|^s)\hat{u}\|_{L^2} = \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (1 + |\xi|^s)^2 |\hat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \right)^{1/2}, \quad s \geq 0.$$

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Definition

Let $s \geq 0$. The fractional Sobolev space $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is defined as

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Coincides with H^k if $s = k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Application to PDE with constant coefficients

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$$-\Delta u + u = f$$

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$f \in H^s \Rightarrow u \in H^{s+2}$ since

$$\frac{1 + |\xi|^{s+2}}{1 + |\xi|^2} \leq 1 + |\xi|^s$$

Elliptic equations with constant coefficients

General partial differential operator of order m

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$P(D)$ is elliptic if $p_m(\xi) \neq 0 \ \forall \ \xi \neq 0$.

Theorem

Assume that $P(D)$ is elliptic and $p(\xi) \neq 0$ for all $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$. If $f \in H^s$, $s \geq 0$, then $P(D)u = f$ has a unique solution $u \in H^{s+m}$ and the map $f \mapsto u$ from H^s to H^{s+m} is continuous.

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$$\Rightarrow \|u\|_{H^{s+m}} \leq \frac{1}{c}\|f\|_{H^s}$$



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Q1: How do you get the estimate $|p(\xi)| \geq c(1 + |\xi|^m)$?

Q2: Can you think of an operator such that $p(\xi) \neq 0$ for all ξ , but $P(D)$ is not elliptic?

Evolution equations

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Dominated convergence $\Rightarrow u \in C([0, T]; H^{s+2}(\mathbb{R}^n))$.

Similarly $u \in C^1([0, T]; H^s(\mathbb{R}^n))$:

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\| \frac{u(t+h) - u(t)}{h} - u_t(t) \right\|_{H^s} = 0$$

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Theorem

Assume that $\alpha := \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n} \text{Re} p(\xi) < \infty$. Then (1) has a unique solution $u \in C([0, \infty); H^{s+m}(\mathbb{R}^n)) \cap C^1([0, \infty); H^s(\mathbb{R}^n))$ for each $g \in H^{s+m}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $s \geq 0$. The solution satisfies

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{H^{s+m}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq e^{\alpha t} \|g\|_{H^{s+m}(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

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Proof: see Wahlén, Theorem 4.25.

2nd order elliptic equations with variable coefficients

(2)

$$\begin{cases} Lu = f \text{ in } U, \\ u = 0 \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

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Divergence form:

$$(3) \quad Lu = - \sum_{ij} (a^{ij}(x) u_{x_i})_{x_j} + \sum_i b^i(x) u_{x_i} + c(x) u$$

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Remark

If $a^{ij} \in C^1$ we can rewrite (3) in the form (4) with

$$\tilde{b}^i = b^i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{x_j}^{ij}$$

(and vice versa).

We assume $a^{ij} = a^{ji}$ (OK if $a^{ij} \in C^1$ by modifying b^i)

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Definition

L is uniformly elliptic if $\exists \theta > 0$ s.t.

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^n a^{ij}(x) \xi_i \xi_j \geq \theta |\xi|^2 \quad \forall x \in U \text{ and } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

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Example: $L = -\Delta$, $a^{ij} = \delta_{ij}$, $\theta = 1$.

Weak solutions

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Assume u C^2 solution. Multiply $Lu = f$ by $v \in C_c^\infty(U)$ and integrate:

$$B[u, v] := \int_U \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^n a^{ij} u_{x_i} v_{x_j} + \sum_{i=1}^n b^i u_{x_i} v + cuv \right) dx = \int_U f v dx$$

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Remark: Evans also discusses solutions for $f \in H^{-1}(U)$.

A bit of functional analysis

Evans D.2–D.3, 6.2.1

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Definition

A bounded linear functional on H is a linear operator $u^* : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $\exists C \geq 0$ with

$$|u^*(v)| \leq C\|v\| \quad \forall v \in H.$$

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Example:

Let $u \in H$. Then $u^*: v \mapsto (u, v)_H$ is a bdd linear functional with

$$|u^*(v)| \leq \|u\| \|v\|.$$

Theorem (Riesz' representation theorem)

H^ can be identified with H in a canonical way: $\forall u^* \in H^* \exists$ unique $u \in H$ s.t.*

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Proof: Functional analysis course.

Theorem (Lax-Milgram)

Assume $B: H \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bilinear mapping s.t. $\exists \alpha, \beta > 0$ with

1. $|B[u, v]| \leq \alpha \|u\| \|v\| \quad \forall u, v \in H$ (boundedness)
2. $\beta \|u\|^2 \leq B[u, u]$ (coercivity)

and let $f \in H^*$.

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Remark

- ▶ $(\cdot, \cdot)_H$ is a bilinear form satisfying the assumptions, so Riesz' representation thm is a special case.
- ▶ If B is symmetric, $B[u, v] = B[v, u]$, then Lax-Milgram follows from Riesz', by using this as an inner product on H .

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Energy estimates

$$B[u, v] = \int_U \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^n a^{ij} u_{x_i} v_{x_j} + \sum_{i=1}^n b^i u_{x_i} v + c u v \right) dx, \quad u, v \in H_0^1(U).$$

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Assumptions

- ▶ $a^{ij}, b^i, c \in L^\infty(U)$ (bounded coefficients)
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Theorem (Energy estimates)

$\exists \alpha, \beta > 0$ and $\gamma \geq 0$ s.t.

1. $|B[u, v]| \leq \alpha \|u\|_{H_0^1} \|v\|_{H_0^1}$
2. $\beta \|u\|_{H_0^1}^2 \leq B[u, u] + \gamma \|u\|_{L^2}^2$

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

Proof.

$$(1) \quad |B[u, v]| \leq \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^n \|a^{ij}\|_{L^\infty} \|u\|_{H_0^1} \|v\|_{H_0^1} + \sum_{i=1}^n \|b^i\|_{L^\infty} \|u\|_{H_0^1} \|v\|_{H_0^1} + \|c\|_{L^\infty} \|u\|_{H_0^1} \|v\|_{H_0^1} \right)$$

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Existence

Theorem (Existence)

$\exists \gamma \geq 0$ s.t. $\forall \mu \geq \gamma$ and $f \in L^2(U) \exists$ unique weak sol. $u \in H_0^1(U)$ of

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Let γ be as in the previous thm. and

$$B_\mu[u, v] := B[u, v] + \mu(u, v)_{L^2}$$

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Lax-Milgram $\Rightarrow \exists ! u \in H_0^1$ s.t. $B_\mu[u, v] = (f, v)_{L^2}$.



Remark

If $b^i = 0 \forall i$ and $c \geq 0$, then the energy estimate holds with $\gamma = 0$, so we get existence for the original problem

$$\begin{cases} Lu = f \text{ in } U, \\ u = 0 \text{ on } \partial U. \end{cases}$$

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Remark

We could also consider

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

with $f \in (H_0^1(U))^*$.

Evans, 5.9.1:

$$(H_0^1(U))^* = H^{-1}(U) = \{f := f^0 - \sum_{i=1}^n f_{x_i}^i, \quad f^i \in L^2(U)\}.$$

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Then $\tilde{u} := u - w$ satisfies

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Let U be bdd with $\partial U \in C^1$. $\exists$ bdd, surjective, linear operator $T: H^1(U) \rightarrow L^2(\partial U)$, s.t. $Tu = u|_{\partial\Omega}$ if $u \in C(\overline{U})$.

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Let L be as in the previous existence result, $f \in L^2(U)$, $g \in L^2(\partial U)$. $\exists$ unique weak sol. $u \in H^1(U)$ of the BVP

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Here weak sol. means $B[u, v] = (f, v)_{L^2} \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(U)$ and $Tu = g$.

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Let L be as in the previous existence result, $f \in L^2(U)$, $g \in L^2(\partial U)$. $\exists$ unique weak sol. $u \in H^1(U)$ of the BVP

$$\begin{cases} Lu + \mu u = f \text{ in } U, \\ u = g \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

for all $\mu \geq \gamma$.

Here weak sol. means $B[u, v] = (f, v)_{L^2} \forall v \in H_0^1(U)$ and $Tu = g$.

Remark: Requires solvability for $\tilde{f} \in H^{-1}(U)$, since $Lw \in H^{-1}(U)$ if $w \in H_0^1(U)$.