

# Introduction to the Calculus of Variations: Lecture 13

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Spring Semester 2021

## Sobolev spaces

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Approximation and extension

Traces

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Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequalities

Poincaré-Sobolev inequalities

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where the constant  $c > 0$  depends only on  $\Omega$ .

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The result is false for  $p = \infty$ .

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Clearly, this result follows from the extension result by mollification.

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This basically is the coordinate change that maps the point  $x_0$  to the origin, maps the portion of  $\Omega$  in  $U_{x_0}$  to the upper half ball  $B_1^+(0)$ , maps the portion of  $\partial\Omega$  in  $U_{x_0}$  to the portion of the equatorial hyperplane in the unit ball and takes the inward normal to  $\partial\Omega$  to the positive direction of the  $x_n$  coordinate.

Thus, if we care only about a small neighborhood of a boundary point,

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# Covering the boundary by local patches

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for some integer  $M > 0$  and some neighborhoods  $U_{x_i}$  of the boundary points  $x_1, \dots, x_M \in \partial\Omega$ .

# Localizing and patching them up

To 'cut'  $u$  into pieces,

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## Localizing or cutting into pieces

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On the other hand, if we are given functions  $v_i \in W^{1,p}(U_i)$  for every  $0 \leq i \leq M$ , then

$$v := \sum_{i=0}^M \zeta_i v_i \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$



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At the level of  $W^{1,p}$ , it is hardly surprising or difficult.

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## Extension by reflection

At the level of  $W^{1,p}$ , it is hardly surprising or difficult. We just use reflection across the flat part of the boundary of the upper half ball.

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### Lemma

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The value of the function obviously matches and perhaps slightly less obviously, the tangential derivatives along the equatorial hyperplane match too.

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## Extension by reflection

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The value of the function obviously matches and perhaps slightly less obviously, the tangential derivatives along the equatorial hyperplane match too. So the only thing to check is whether the normal derivative matches across the equatorial hyperplane  $\{x_n = 0\}$ . You are asked to prove this in the problem sheets.

Now we want to tackle the problem of defining ‘boundary values’ of a  $W^{1,p}$  function.

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## Theorem (Existence of Trace operator)

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For any  $u \in W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , we call  $T_0 u$  as the **zeroth order Dirichlet trace** on the boundary and is often denoted simply as  $u|_{\partial\Omega}$ .

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## Remark

- ▶ Note that  $L^p(\partial\Omega)$  is defined with respect to the surface measure  $d\sigma$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

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- ▶ Although we prove the theorem for  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,

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- ▶ Note that  $L^p(\partial\Omega)$  is defined with respect to the surface measure  $d\sigma$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . If you are familiar with Hausdorff measure, then you would have no difficulty understanding that this is essentially the  $(n-1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure  $\mathcal{H}^{n-1}$  restricted to  $\partial\Omega$ .
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# Proof of the existence of Trace operator

We define the operator for smooth functions by assigning the boundary values.

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### Lemma

*There exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that*

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### Lemma

*There exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that*

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} |u(x', 0)|^p dx' \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq c \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}_+^n)} \quad \text{for every } u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

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# Proof of the existence of Trace operator

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Let  $F(t) := |t|^{p-1} t$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

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$$F(u(x', 0)) = - \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} F(u(x', x_n)) \, dx_n$$

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$$= - \int_0^{+\infty} F'(u(x', x_n)) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n}(x', x_n) \, dx_n$$

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$$|u(x', 0)|^p \leq p \int_0^{+\infty} |u(x', x_n)|^{p-1} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n}(x', x_n) \right| \, dx_n$$

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The lemma follows by integrating w.r.t.  $x' \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$

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We begin our discussion with the case  $1 \leq p < n$ .

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### Definition (Sobolev conjugate exponent)

Let  $1 \leq p < n$ . Then the **Sobolev conjugate exponent** of  $p$  is defined as

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

### Remark

*Note that we always have  $p^* > p$ .*

## Theorem (Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality)

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We shall prove this inequality in the next lecture.

Sobolev spaces

Definitions

Elementary properties

Approximation and  
extension

Traces

Sobolev inequalities and  
Sobolev embeddings

Gagliardo-Nirenberg-  
Sobolev  
inequalities

Poincaré-Sobolev  
inequalities

Morrey's inequality

Rellich-Kondrachov  
compact embeddings

**Thank you**  
*Questions?*

The End