

Introduction to the Calculus of Variations: Lecture 14

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Theorem (Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality)

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for every $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

To prove this inequality, we need a simple lemma.

Lemma

Let $n \geq 2$

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Let $n \geq 2$ and let $f_1, \dots, f_n \in L^{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})$.

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$$f(x) := \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(\hat{x}_i) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

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$$\|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \|f_i\|_{L^{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})}.$$

Proof.

$n = 2$ is just Fubini

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$n = 2$ is just Fubini with equality in fact.

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$n = 2$ is just Fubini with equality in fact. Indeed,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |f| \, dx_1 dx_2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f_1(x_2)| |f_2(x_1)| \, dx_1 dx_2$$

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Now to prove by induction, we assume the result holds for some $n \geq 2$ and show it for $n + 1$.

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Now to prove by induction, we assume the result holds for some $n \geq 2$ and show it for $n + 1$.

Fix $x_{n+1} \in \mathbb{R}$ for now.

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$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f| \, dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n \\ &\leq \|f_{n+1}\|_{L^n(\mathbb{R}^n)} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f_1 \dots f_n|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \, dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \end{aligned}$$

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Integrating w.r.t x_{n+1} and Hölder inequality gives the result. \square

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$$|u(x_1, \dots, x_n)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i}(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, t, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right| dt := f_i(\hat{x}_i).$$

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Thus, we have

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Thus, we have

$$|u(x_1, \dots, x_n)|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n |f_i(\hat{x}_i)|^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$$

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Integrating and using the lemma, we deduce

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u(x)|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left\| |f_i(\hat{x}_i)|^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right\|_{L^{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})}$$

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$$|u(x_1, \dots, x_n)|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n |f_i(\hat{x}_i)|^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$$

Integrating and using the lemma, we deduce

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u(x)|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left\| |f_i(\hat{x}_i)|^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right\|_{L^{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left\| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$$

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Proof of Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

Proof. First we prove for $p = 1$.

We can assume $u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We have, for each $1 \leq i \leq n$,

$$|u(x_1, \dots, x_n)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i}(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, t, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right| dt := f_i(\hat{x}_i).$$

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Thus,

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Thus,

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{n}{n-1}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left\| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

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Thus,

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Thus,

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Proof of Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

Now we choose $f = |u|^\gamma$

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Proof of Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

Now we choose $f = |u|^\gamma$ for some $\gamma > 0$

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Proof of Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

Now we choose $f = |u|^\gamma$ for some $\gamma > 0$ and apply the inequality for $p = 1$

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Now we choose $f = |u|^\gamma$ for some $\gamma > 0$ and apply the inequality for $p = 1$ to f to deduce,

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

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Now choose $\gamma > 0$ such that

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Now choose $\gamma > 0$ such that

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Proof of Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

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Now choose $\gamma > 0$ such that

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and watch the exponents almost magically fall into place for $1 < p < n$ to establish

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and watch the exponents almost magically fall into place for $1 < p < n$ to establish

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\frac{np}{n-p}} \right)^{\frac{n-p}{np}} dx \leq c \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla u|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

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Now choose $\gamma > 0$ such that

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This proves the theorem. □

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We now discuss some consequences of the inequality.

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We now discuss some consequences of the inequality.

Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p < n$)

Let $1 \leq p < n$.

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Let $1 \leq p < n$. Then $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$

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Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p < n$)

Let $1 \leq p < n$. Then $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $q \in [p, p^*]$.

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Let $1 \leq p < n$. Then $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $q \in [p, p^*]$.

Proof.

Since $q \in [p, p^*]$,

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Proof.

Since $q \in [p, p^*]$, we have

$$\frac{1}{q} = \frac{\alpha}{p} + \frac{1-\alpha}{p^*} \quad \text{for some } \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

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Thus, we have, by interpolation inequality

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Thus, we have, by interpolation inequality and Young's inequality,

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Thus, we have, by interpolation inequality and Young's inequality,

$$\|u\|_{L^q} \leq \|u\|_{L^p}^\alpha \|u\|_{L^{p^*}}^{1-\alpha}$$

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Proof.

Since $q \in [p, p^*]$, we have

$$\frac{1}{q} = \frac{\alpha}{p} + \frac{1-\alpha}{p^*} \quad \text{for some } \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

Thus, we have, by interpolation inequality and Young's inequality,

$$\|u\|_{L^q} \leq \|u\|_{L^p}^\alpha \|u\|_{L^{p^*}}^{1-\alpha} \leq \|u\|_{L^p} + \|u\|_{L^{p^*}} \leq c \|u\|_{W^{1,p}}.$$



Our next result might seem surprising,

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Consequences of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev

Our next result might seem surprising, since it concerns $W^{1,n}$.

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Consequences of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev

Our next result might seem surprising, since it concerns $W^{1,n}$. But this result is more of a corollary of the proof and not really of the final result.

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Our next result might seem surprising, since it concerns $W^{1,n}$. But this result is more of a corollary of the proof and not really of the final result.

Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p = n$)

$W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$

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Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p = n$)

$W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $q \in [n, +\infty)$.

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$W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $q \in [n, +\infty)$.

Proof.

As in the proof, we can easily establish, for any $\gamma > 0$,

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Consequences of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev

Our next result might seem surprising, since it concerns $W^{1,n}$. But this result is more of a corollary of the proof and not really of the final result.

Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p = n$)

$W^{1,n}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $q \in [n, +\infty)$.

Proof.

As in the proof, we can easily establish, for any $\gamma > 0$,

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\frac{\gamma n}{n-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \leq \gamma \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |u|^{\frac{(\gamma-1)n}{n-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla u|^n dx \right)^{\frac{1}{n}}.$$

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$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{n^2}{n-1}}} \leq c \|u\|_{W^{1,n}}.$$

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But now we can iterate this process by choosing $\gamma = n + 1, n + 2, \dots$ and so on

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Note we really have not used the fact $p < n$ up to that point and so we can put $p = n$. Now let us choose $\gamma = n$. This will prove

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{n^2}{n-1}}} \leq c \|u\|_{W^{1,n}}.$$

But now we can iterate this process by choosing $\gamma = n + 1, n + 2, \dots$ and so on to keep pushing the exponent. \square

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Now we focus on bounded domains.

Theorem (Sobolev embedding in bounded domains for $p < n$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, bounded and smooth

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Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, bounded and smooth and let $1 \leq p < n$.

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Both results can be proved from the \mathbb{R}^n case

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Both results can be proved from the \mathbb{R}^n case using extension

Now we focus on bounded domains.

Theorem (Sobolev embedding in bounded domains for $p < n$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, bounded and smooth and let $1 \leq p < n$.
Then $W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ continuously embeds into $L^q(\Omega)$ for every
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Theorem (Sobolev embedding in \mathbb{R}^n for $p = n$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, bounded and smooth. Then $W^{1,n}(\Omega)$
continuously embeds into $L^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for every $1 \leq q < \infty$.

Both results can be proved from the \mathbb{R}^n case using extension and noting that Ω has finite measure.

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Note that the Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality actually says

$$\|u\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq c \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad \text{when } 1 \leq p < n.$$

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Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open

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Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

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Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

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Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and let $1 \leq p < n$. Then there exists a constant $c > 0$, depending only on Ω , n and p

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Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and let $1 \leq p < n$. Then there exists a constant $c > 0$, depending only on Ω , n and p such that we have the estimate

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It is in general not possible to improve this. But for functions in $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$, we can improve the inequality.

Theorem (Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and let $1 \leq p < n$. Then there exists a constant $c > 0$, depending only on Ω , n and p such that we have the estimate

$$\|u\|_{L^{p^*}(\Omega)} \leq c \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \quad \text{for all } u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega).$$

Poincaré-Sobolev inequalities

Note that the Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality actually says

$$\|u\|_{L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq c \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad \text{when } 1 \leq p < n.$$

However, the estimate in the result for the bounded, smooth domain says something weaker, namely,

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Remark

Ω can be an arbitrary open set!

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The result follows from the GNS inequality by an extension, but not the extension operator we constructed in the theorem.

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Lemma

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and let $1 \leq p < \infty$.

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is in $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$

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Note that this lemma needs no regularity of the boundary and also does not need Ω to be bounded. However, if $\partial\Omega$ is not regular,

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Remark

Note that this lemma needs no regularity of the boundary and also does not need Ω to be bounded. However, if $\partial\Omega$ is not regular, there may be no well-defined trace and the identification with zero-trace functions might be meaningless.

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From the Poincaré-Sobolev inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$, we can now deduce

Theorem (Poincaré inequality for $W_0^{1,p}$)

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and *bounded*

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Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and *bounded* and let $1 \leq p < \infty$. Then there exists a constant $c > 0$, depending only on Ω , n and p

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Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open and *bounded* and let $1 \leq p < \infty$. Then there exists a constant $c > 0$, depending only on Ω , n and p such that we have the estimate

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This shows that for any $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open and bounded, $\|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega)}$ is an equivalent norm on $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$.

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$$\langle u, v \rangle_{W_0^{1,2}(\Omega)} := \langle \nabla u, \nabla v \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

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Questions?

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