## University of Oxford

## ELLIPTIC PDES -PROBLEM SHEET TWO

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**Theorem 1.** (Stampacchia) Suppose  $d \geq 3$ ,  $A\xi \cdot \xi \geq \alpha \xi \cdot \xi$  and  $|A| \leq M$ . Suppose that  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  is the weak solution of

$$div(A\nabla u) = f \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$$

for some  $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ , p > d/2, Then

$$||u||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C(\Omega, \alpha, d, p)||f||_{L^{p}(\Omega)}.$$

**Remark 1.** The proof is unchanged if A depends on  $u, \nabla u$  as well.

**Exercise 1.** Let  $\phi: [0,\infty) \to [0,\infty)$  be non-increasing function such that, for some  $M,\gamma > 0$  and  $\delta > 1$  there holds

$$\phi(y) \le \frac{M\phi(x)^{\delta}}{|y-x|^{\gamma}} \text{ for all } y > x > 0.$$

Show that

$$\phi(d) = 0,$$

where

$$d^{\gamma} = M\phi(0)^{\delta - 1} 2^{\frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1}}.$$

Hint: consider  $d_n = d(1-2^{-n})$ , and show that  $\phi(d_n) \leq \phi(0)2^{-\frac{n\gamma}{\delta-1}}$ .

Proof. • Direct Method

Consider  $d_n = d(1 - 2^{-n})$ , then

$$d_n - d_{n-1} = 2^{-n}d > 0,$$

and

$$|d_n - d_{n-1}|^{\gamma} = 2^{-n\gamma} d^{\gamma} = 2^{-n\gamma} M \phi(0)^{\delta - 1} 2^{\frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1}}.$$

Then

$$\phi(d_n) \leq \frac{M\phi(d_{n-1})^{\delta}}{2^{-n\gamma}M\phi(0)^{\delta-1}2^{\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}}}$$

$$= 2^{n\gamma} \cdot 2^{-\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}}\phi(0)^{1-\delta}\phi(d_{n-1})^{\delta}$$

$$\leq 2^{n\gamma} \cdot 2^{-\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}}\phi(0)^{1-\delta} \left[2^{(n-1)\gamma} \cdot 2^{-\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}}\phi(0)^{1-\delta}\phi(d_{n-2})^{\delta}\right]^{\delta}$$

$$\leq \cdots \text{ iteratively}$$

$$= \phi(0)^{\alpha}2^{\beta}$$

where

$$\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \delta^k (1 - \delta) + \delta^n = 1$$

and

$$\beta = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (n-k)\delta^k \gamma - \frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1} \cdot \delta^k.$$

Note that

$$\beta = \frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (\delta - 1)(n - k)\delta^{k-1} - \delta^k$$

$$= \frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (n - k - 1)\delta^k - (n - k)\delta^{k-1}$$

$$= \frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{n} (n - k)\delta^{k-1} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (n - k)\delta^{k-1} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\delta \gamma}{\delta - 1} \left( -\frac{n}{\delta} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{n\gamma}{\delta - 1}.$$

Thus

$$\phi(d_n) \le \phi(0)2^{-\frac{\gamma n}{\gamma - 1}}$$
 for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Since  $d_n = d(1-2^{-n}) \to d$  almost surely as  $n \to \infty$ , we have

$$\phi(d) \le \liminf_{n \to \infty} \phi(d_n) \le \phi(0) \liminf_{n \to \infty} 2^{-\frac{\gamma n}{\delta - 1}} = 0$$

provided that  $\phi(0)$  is bounded. Also  $\phi \geq 0$  by definition, so  $\phi(d) = 0$ .

• Proof by induction

Alternatively, we can achieve the same result by an induction argument:

For n = 1,

$$\phi(d_1) = \phi(\frac{d}{2}) \le \frac{M\phi(x)^{\delta}}{\left|\frac{d}{2} - x\right|^{\gamma}} \le \frac{M\phi(0)^{\delta}}{\left|\frac{d}{2} - x\right|^{\gamma}} \text{ for all } \frac{d}{2} > x > 0.$$

Take  $x \downarrow 0$ ,

$$\phi(d_1) \le \frac{M\phi(0)^{\delta}}{d^{\gamma} 2^{-\gamma}} = \phi(0) 2^{-\frac{\gamma}{\delta - 1}}.$$

Now assume that the statement holds for some fixed  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we prove for n+1,

$$\phi(d_{n+1}) \le \frac{M\phi(d_n)^{\delta}}{|d_{n+1} - d_n|^{\gamma}} \le \frac{M\phi(0)^{\delta} 2^{-\frac{n\delta\gamma}{\delta - 1}}}{d^{\gamma} 2^{-\gamma(n+1)}} = \phi(0) 2^{-\frac{(n+1)\gamma}{\delta - 1}}.$$

**Exercise 2.** Let  $G \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$  be such that G(0) = 0 and  $|G'(s)| \leq M$  for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Given  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , then check that

$$G(u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$$
 and  $\partial_i(G(u)) = G'(u)\partial_i u$  a.e.

Show that this is also true for the piecewise  $C^1$  functions  $G_k$  given by with  $G_k(x) = -k$  when  $x \le -k$ ,  $G_k(x) = k$  when  $x \ge k$ , and  $G_k(x) = x$  otherwise.

*Proof.* Let  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , then we approximate u by  $\{u_m\} \in C_c^{\infty}$ . That is

$$u_m \to u \text{ in } W^{1,p}(\Omega).$$

We know that  $G(u_m) \in C_c^1(\Omega)$  and

$$\nabla G(u_m) = G'(u_m) \nabla u_m.$$

Note that LHS  $\nabla G(u_m) \to \nabla G(u)$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$  as  $G(u_m) \to G(u)$  strongly in  $L^p(\Omega)$  as a result of the following inequality

$$||G(u_m) - G(u)||_{L^p(\Omega)} \le M||u_m - u||_{L^p(\Omega)}.$$

RHS  $G'(u_m)\nabla u_m \to G'(u)\nabla u$  in  $L^p(\Omega)$  since

$$||G'(u_m)\nabla u_m - G'(u)\nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega)} \le ||G'(u_m)(\nabla u_m - \nabla u)||_{L^p(\Omega)} + ||(G'(u_m) - G'(u))\nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega)}$$

$$\le M||\nabla u_m - \nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega)} \text{ (2nd term vanishes by DCT)}$$

$$\to 0.$$

Note that we can apply DCT to 2nd term since  $u_m \to u$  in  $L^p(\Omega)$  implies that there exists a subsequence  $u_{m_k} \to u$  almost everywhere, and thus  $G(u_{m_k}) \to G(u)$  almost everywhere.

Thus

$$\nabla G(u) = G'(u)\nabla u$$
 in  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ 

due to uniqueness of limit.

Now we need to check that  $G(u) \in W_0^{1,p}$ .

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- $G(u) \in L^p(\Omega)$  since  $\int_{\Omega} |G(u)|^p \leq M^p \int_{\Omega} |u|^p < \infty$ .
- $G'(u)\nabla u \in L^p(\Omega)$ .
- tr(G(u)) = 0 since  $0 = tr(G(u_m)) \to tr(G(u))$  in  $L^p(\partial\Omega)$ .

Therefore,  $G(u) \in W_0^{1,p}$  with  $\nabla G(u) = G'(u) \nabla u$  a.e.

Now we proceed to the second part of the proof.

**Lemma 1.** If  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , then  $u_+ \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  and  $\nabla u_+ = (\nabla u) \mathbb{1}_{\{u > 0\}} = (\nabla u) \mathbb{1}_{\{u \geq 0\}}$ .

Proof. We approximate 
$$u_+ := \max(u, 0)$$
 by  $u_{\varepsilon} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2} - \varepsilon & \text{if } u > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } u \leq 0. \end{cases}$ 

Then 
$$u_{\varepsilon}(0) = 0$$
 and  $u_{\varepsilon} \in C^1$  with  $||u'_{\varepsilon}||_{\infty} < \infty$  since  $u'_{\varepsilon}(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} & \text{if } u > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } u \leq 0. \end{cases}$ 

By first part of this exercise, we know that  $u_{\varepsilon}(u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , with  $\nabla u_{\varepsilon}(u) = u'_{\varepsilon}(u) \nabla u$ . Then for all  $\varphi \in C_c^{\infty}(\Omega)$ , we have

$$\int_{\Omega} u_{\varepsilon}(u) \nabla \varphi = -\int_{\Omega} u'_{\varepsilon}(u) \nabla u \varphi = -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi.$$

 $LHS = \int_{\Omega} u_{\varepsilon}(u) \nabla \varphi = \int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} (\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2} - \varepsilon) \nabla \varphi \to \int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} u \nabla \varphi \text{ by DCT as the integrand is bounded by } \sqrt{u^2 + 1} |\nabla \varphi| \in L^1(\Omega).$  Similarly,  $RHS = -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since the integrand } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + \varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \text{ by DCT since } \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \nabla u \varphi \to -\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}$ 

grand  $\mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2+\varepsilon^2}} \nabla u \varphi \leq |\nabla u||\varphi| \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Since  $0 = tr(u_{\varepsilon}(u)) \to tr(u_+)$  in  $L^p(\partial\Omega)$ ,  $tr(u_+) = 0$ . We can thus conclude that  $u_+ \in W_0^{1,p}$  and  $\nabla u_+ = \mathbb{1}_{\{u>0\}}(\nabla u)$ .

Corollary 1.  $G_k(u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , and  $\nabla G_k(u) = (\nabla u) \mathbb{1}_{\{|u| < k\}}$ .

*Proof.*  $G_k(u) = (u_+ - k)_- + (u_- + k)_+$ . By the lemma above, we know that  $u_+, u_- \in$  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  with

$$\nabla u_+ = \mathbb{1}_{\{u > 0\}}(\nabla u)$$

and

$$\nabla u_- = \mathbb{1}_{\{u < 0\}}(\nabla u).$$

Note that  $u_+ - k \in W^{1,p}(\Omega)$  with  $tr(u_+ - k) = -k$  and

$$\nabla(u_+ - k) = \mathbb{1}_{\{u > 0\}}(\nabla u)$$

Thus  $(u_+ - k)_- \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  with

$$\nabla[(u_{+} - k)_{-}] = \mathbb{1}_{\{u_{+} < k\}}(\nabla u_{+}).$$

Similarly, Thus  $(u_- + k)_+ \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  with

$$\nabla[(u_{-}+k)_{+}] = \mathbb{1}_{\{u_{-}>-k\}}(\nabla u_{-}).$$

Therefore, we have

$$\nabla G_k(u) = \nabla u_+ \mathbb{1}_{\{u_+ < k\}} + \nabla u_- \mathbb{1}_{\{u_- > -k\}}$$
$$= \nabla u \mathbb{1}_{\{0 < u < k\}} + \nabla u \mathbb{1}_{\{0 > u > -k\}}$$
$$= \nabla u \mathbb{1}_{\{|u| \le k\}}.$$

**Exercise 3.** Testing the equation against  $G_1(u)$  with  $G_1(x) = x - G_k(x)$ , writing  $2^* = \frac{2d}{d-2}$  and  $2_* = \frac{2d}{d+2}$ , show that if  $A_k := \{x : |u(x)| \ge k\}$ ,

$$\left( \int_{A_{k}} (G_{1}(u))^{2^{\star}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2^{\star}}} \leq \frac{C(p,d)}{\alpha} \left( \int_{A_{k}} |f|^{2_{\star}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2_{\star}}}.$$

Deduce that

$$|A_h| \le \left(\frac{C(p,d)}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)}\right)^{2^*} \frac{|A_k|^{\frac{2^*}{2_*} - \frac{2^*}{p}}}{|h - k|^{2^*}} \text{ for } h > k > 0$$

and conclude the proof of the Theorem.

*Proof.* Testing the equation with  $G_1(u)$ , we have

$$\int_{\Omega} A \nabla u \cdot \nabla (G_1(u)) = \int_{\Omega} f G_1(u).$$

 $\nabla(G_1(u)) = \nabla(u - G_k(u)) = \nabla u - G_k'(u)\nabla u = \nabla u \mathbb{1}_{\{|u| \ge k\}}$  a.e. by Exercise 2. Consider  $A_k := \{x : |u(x)| \ge k\},$ 

$$\int_{A_L} A\nabla(G_1(u)) \cdot \nabla(G_1(u)) = \int_{A_L} fG_1(u).$$

By ellipticity of A and Hölder's inequality, we have

$$\alpha \|\nabla(G_1(u))\|_{L^2(A_k)}^2 \le \int_{A_k} fG_1(u) \le \|f\|_{L^{2_*}(A_k)} \|G_1(u)\|_{L^{2_*}(A_k)}.$$

Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality tells us that

$$\alpha \|G_1(u)\|_{L^{2^*}(A_k)}^2 \le C(d,p)\alpha \|\nabla(G_1(u))\|_{L^2(A_k)}^2 \le C(d,p)\|f\|_{L^{2_*}(A_k)}\|G_1(u)\|_{L^{2^*}(A_k)}.$$

Thus,

$$||G_1(u)||_{L^{2^*}(A_k)} \le \frac{C(d,p)}{\alpha} ||f||_{L^{2_*}(A_k)}.$$

Note that

$$RHS = \frac{C(d,p)}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^{2_{\star}}(A_k)} \le \frac{C(d,p)}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^p(A_k)} |A_k|^{\frac{1}{2_{\star}} - \frac{1}{p}}$$

by Hölder inequality.

$$LHS = \|G_1(u)\|_{L^{2^{\star}}(A_k)} \ge \|G_1(u)\|_{L^{2^{\star}}(A_h)} \ge \left(\int_{A_h} |h - k|^{2^{\star}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2^{\star}}} = |A_h|^{\frac{1}{2^{\star}}} |h - k|$$

for h > k > 0. Therefore

$$|A_h| \le \left(\frac{C(p,d)}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)}\right)^{2^*} \frac{|A_k|^{\frac{2^*}{2_*} - \frac{2^*}{p}}}{|h - k|^{2^*}} \text{ for } h > k > 0.$$

To conclude the Theorem using Exercise 1, we define a non-increasing function  $\phi$  by  $\phi(h) = |A_h|$ . Take  $\gamma = 2^*$ ,  $\delta = \frac{2^*}{2_*} - \frac{2^*}{p} > 1$  as  $p > \frac{d}{2}$ . Take  $M := \left(\frac{C(p,d)}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)}\right)^{2^*}$ , then  $\phi(h) \leq \frac{M\phi(k)^{\delta}}{|h-k|^{\gamma}}$  for h > k > 0.

By Exercise 1, we know that  $|A_l| = 0$  if  $l^{\gamma} = M\phi(0)^{\delta-1}2^{\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}} = M|\Omega|^{\delta-1}2^{\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}}$ . This implies that  $||u||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq l = (M|\Omega|^{\delta-1}2^{\frac{\delta\gamma}{\delta-1}})^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \leq C(\Omega, \alpha, d, p)||f||_{L^p(\Omega)}$ .

**Exercise 4.** Let  $\theta \in (0,1)$ ,  $A \ge 0$  be given. Show that there exists  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  such that if

$$\rho^m \|u\|_{H^m(B_{\theta,o}(z))} \le \epsilon_0 \rho^m \|u\|_{H^m(B_{\theta,o}(z))} + A$$

for all  $\rho \leq R$  and  $B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_{R}(x_{0})$ , then

$$||u||_{H^m(B_{\theta R}(x_0))} \le C \frac{A}{R^m},$$

for some constant C depending on  $\theta$ , m and d.

*Proof.* Define  $s := \sup\{\rho^m ||u||_{H^m(B_{\theta\rho}(z))} \colon B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_R(x_0)\}$ . Applying the inequality in the assumption, we have

$$(\theta\rho)^m\|u\|_{H^m(B_{\theta^2\rho}(z))}\leq \epsilon_0(\theta\rho)^m\|u\|_{H^m(B_{\theta\rho}(z))}+A\leq \epsilon_0\theta^ms+A \text{ for all } B_\rho(z)\subset B_R(x_0).$$

Fix  $B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_{R}(x_{0})$  and cover  $B_{\theta\rho}(z)$  by n balls that are contained in  $B_{\rho}(z)$ ,

$$\{B_{\theta^2(1-\theta)\rho}(y_1), B_{\theta^2(1-\theta)\rho}(y_2), \cdots, B_{\theta^2(1-\theta)\rho}(y_n)\}$$

such that  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in B_{\theta\rho}(z)$ . Then

$$\rho^{m} \|u\|_{H^{m}(B_{\rho\theta}(z))} \leq \rho^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \|u\|_{H^{m}(B_{\theta^{2}(1-\theta)\rho}(y_{i}))} 
= (\theta(1-\theta))^{-m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\theta(1-\theta)\rho)^{m} \|u\|_{H^{m}(B_{\theta^{2}(1-\theta)\rho}(y_{i}))} 
\leq (\theta(1-\theta))^{-m} n(\epsilon_{0}\theta^{m}s + A)$$

for all  $B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_R(x_0)$ . Take sup over  $B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_R(x_0)$ , we have

$$s \leq \tilde{C}(\epsilon_0 s + A)$$

where  $\tilde{C} = \tilde{C}(\theta, n, m) = \tilde{C}(\theta, d, m)$ . For  $\epsilon_0 \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{C}^{-1}$ , the s term on RHS can be absorbed to LHS, and thus

$$s < 2\tilde{C}A$$
.

That is,

$$\rho^m \|u\|_{H^m(B_{\alpha\theta}(z))} \le 2\tilde{C}A$$

for all  $B_{\rho}(z) \subset B_R(x_0)$ . Take  $B_{\rho}(z) = B_R(x_0)$  to see that

$$||u||_{H^m(B_{\theta R}(x_0))} \le C \frac{A}{R_m^m},$$

where  $C = C(\theta, m, d)$ .

**Exercise 5.** Show that if  $u \in H^m_{loc}(\Omega)$  satisfies

$$\sum_{|\alpha|,|\beta| \le m} D^{\beta}((-1)^{|\beta|} a_{\alpha,\beta} D^{\alpha} u) = \sum_{|\beta| \le m} (-1)^{|\beta|} D^{\beta} f_{\beta} \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega),$$

with  $f_{\beta} \in L^2_{loc}(\Omega)$ ,  $a_{\alpha,\beta} \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ , with  $\sup_{\alpha,\beta,x} a_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \leq M$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ , and there exists a constant  $\lambda > 0$  such that

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta|\alpha|=|\beta|=m} a_{\alpha,\beta} \zeta_{\alpha} \zeta_{\beta} \ge \lambda |\zeta|^2 \text{ for all } \zeta \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

for all balls  $B_{\rho'} \subset B_{\rho} \subset \Omega$  the bound

$$||u||_{H^{m}(B_{\rho'})} \le \epsilon ||u||_{H^{m}(B_{\rho})} + C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \rho, \rho') \left( ||u||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} + ||\sum_{\beta \le m} |f_{\beta}||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} \right)$$

holds, then there is  $\tilde{C}(\frac{M}{\lambda},\epsilon)$  such that for each  $\theta \in (0,1)$  and  $\rho < 1$ ,

$$||u||_{H^m(B_{\theta\rho})} \le \epsilon ||u||_{H^m(B_{\rho})} + \frac{1}{\rho^m} C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( ||u||_{L^2(B_{\rho})} + ||\sum_{\beta \le m} |f_{\beta}||_{L^2(B_{\rho})} \right).$$

*Proof.* For  $u \in H^m(\Omega)$  and  $k \leq m$ ,  $D^k u = (D^{\alpha} u)_{|\alpha|=k}$ , and

$$||D^k u||_{L^2(\Omega)} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha|=k} ||D^\alpha u||_{L^2(\Omega)}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Define  $||u||_{H^m(\Omega)} := \sum_{k=1}^m ||D^k u||_{L^2(\Omega)}$ .

Take  $y = \rho x$ ,  $u_{\rho} = u(y) = u(\rho x)$ , then our new PDE is

$$\sum_{|\alpha|,|\beta| \le m} D^{\beta}((-1)^{|\beta|} \rho^{-|\beta|-|\alpha|} a_{\alpha,\beta} D^{\alpha} u_{\rho}) = \sum_{|\beta| \le m} (-1)^{|\beta|} \rho^{-|\beta|} D^{\beta} f_{\beta}$$

Multiplying  $\rho^{2m}$  on both sides, we get the same PDE with

$$\tilde{a}_{\alpha,\beta} = \rho^{2m-|\alpha|-|\beta|} a_{\alpha,\beta}, \tilde{f}_{\beta} = \rho^{2m-\beta} f_{\beta} \text{ and } \frac{\tilde{M}}{\tilde{\lambda}} = \frac{M}{\lambda}.$$

By assumption, we know that

$$||u_{\rho}||_{H^{m}(B_{\theta})} \le \epsilon ||u_{\rho}||_{H^{m}(B_{1})} + C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( ||u_{\rho}||_{L^{2}(B_{1})} + ||\sum_{\beta \le m} |f_{\beta}|||_{L^{2}(B_{1})} \right).$$

Note that  $||u||_{H^m(B_\rho)} \le ||u||_{H^m(B_\rho)} := \sum_{k=1}^m ||D^k u||_{L^2(\Omega)} \le \sqrt{m} ||u||_{H^m(B_\rho)}. |||u|||_{H^m(B_\rho)}$  is an equivalent norm on  $H^m(B_\rho)$  with bounds independent of  $\rho$ , so it suffices to prove the estimate with  $|||\cdot||_{H^m(B_\rho)}$  instead. Now rescale it back to  $B_\rho$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{m} \rho^{k-\frac{d}{2}} \|D^k u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho\theta})} \le \epsilon \sum_{k=0}^{m} \rho^{k-\frac{d}{2}} \|D^k u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} + \rho^{-\frac{d}{2}} C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( \|u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} + \|\sum_{\beta \le m} |f_{\beta}|\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} \right).$$

Now multiply by  $\rho^{-m+\frac{d}{2}}$  on both sides

$$\sum_{k=0}^{m} \rho^{k-m} \|D^k u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho\theta})} \le \epsilon \sum_{k=0}^{m} \rho^{k-m} \|D^k u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} + \rho^{-m} C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( \|u\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} + \|\sum_{\beta \le m} |f_{\beta}|\|_{L^2(B_{\rho})} \right).$$

Since  $\rho \ge 1$ ,  $||u||_{H^m(B_{\rho\theta})} \le \sum_{k=0}^m \rho^{k-m} ||D^k u||_{L^2(B_{\rho\theta})}$  and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{m} \rho^{k-m} \|D^k u\|_{L^2(B_\rho)} \le \|D^m u\|_{L^2(B_\rho)} + C\rho^{-m} \|u\|_{L^2(B_\rho)}.$$

Thus

$$||u||_{H^{m}(B_{\rho\theta})} \leq \epsilon ||D^{m}u||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} + \rho^{-m}C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( ||u||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} + ||\sum_{\beta \leq m} |f_{\beta}||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} \right)$$
$$\leq \epsilon ||u||_{H^{m}(B_{\rho})} + \rho^{-m}C(\frac{M}{\lambda}, \epsilon, \theta) \left( ||u||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} + ||\sum_{\beta \leq m} |f_{\beta}||_{L^{2}(B_{\rho})} \right).$$