

0.1 Decay estimates for systems with constant coefficients

Lemma 1.

Let $A = A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}$ be a constant matrix satisfying the Legendre-Hadamard condition (??) for some $\lambda > 0$, let $\Lambda = |A|$ and let $u \in H_{loc}^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ satisfying the system

$$-\sum_{\alpha\beta j} \partial_{x_\alpha} \left(A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{x_\beta} u^j \right) = 0, \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \quad (1)$$

Then for $B_r(x_0) \subset B_R(x_0) \subset\subset \Omega$ it holds

$$\bullet \int_{B_r(x_0)} |u|^2 dx \leq c_D \left(\frac{r}{R} \right)^n \int_{B_R(x_0)} |u|^2 dx \quad (2)$$

$$\bullet \int_{B_r(x_0)} |u - u_{x_0,r}|^2 dx \leq c_E \left(\frac{r}{R} \right)^{n+2} \int_{B_R(x_0)} |u - u_{x_0,R}|^2 dx \quad (3)$$

with $c_D = c_D(n, \lambda, \Lambda)$ and $c_E = c_E(n, \lambda, \Lambda)$, having used the notation

$$u_{x_0,s} := \frac{1}{|B_s(x_0)|} \int_{B_s(x_0)} u(x) dx \quad (4)$$

0.2 Regularity up to the boundary

Let $u \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ be a weak solution of

$$-\sum_{\alpha\beta j} \partial_{x_\alpha} \left(A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{x_\beta} u^j \right) = f_i - \sum_{\alpha} \partial_{x_\alpha} F_i^\alpha, \quad i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \quad (5)$$

We make the following hypothesis:

$f \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$, $F \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$, $A \in C^{0,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m^2 \times n^2})$,

$A(X)$ satisfies the Legendre-Hadamard condition (??) uniformly with respect to $x \in \Omega$, Ω has C^2 boundary (we say $\partial\Omega \in C^2$), i.e. the domain Ω is locally the epigraph of a C^2 function up to a rigid motion.

Theorem 1 (Regularity up to the boundary).

Under the assumptions above, the function u belongs to $H^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ and moreover $\exists c = c(\Omega, A, n) > 0$ such that

$$\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)} \leq c \left(\|f\|_{L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)} + \|F\|_{H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})} \right). \quad (6)$$

If both the boundary of the domain and the data are sufficiently regular the method can be iterated to obtain higher Regularity of u .

Theorem 2.

Assume in addition to the hypothesis above that $f \in H^k(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$, $F \in H^{k+1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$, $A \in C^{k,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m^2 \times n^2})$ with Ω such that $\partial\Omega \in C^{k+2}$. Then $u \in H^{k+2}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$

0.3 Interior Regularity for Nonlinear Equations

We see here how the Nirenberg's method is appropriate in dealing with nonlinear PDEs as those arising from Euler-Lagrange equations of non-quadratic functionals.

Consider $L \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}; \mathbb{R})$ and assume that

- (i) there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $|\nabla^2 L(\xi)| \leq c, \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$
- (ii) L satisfies a uniform Legendre condition, i.e.

$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta, i, j} \partial_{p_j^\alpha} \partial_{p_j^\beta} L(p) \xi_i^\alpha \xi_j^\beta \geq \lambda |\xi|^2 \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \quad (7)$$

for some $\lambda > 0$ independent of p .

To simplify notation we set $B_i^\alpha := \frac{\partial L}{\partial p_i^\alpha}$ and $A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} := \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial p_i^\alpha \partial p_j^\beta}$