

1 Background

For a function $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ the Jacobi-Matrix at point x_0 is given by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x_0) := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_1(x_0) & \cdots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} f_1(x_0) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_n(x_0) & \cdots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} f_n(x_0) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

and the derivative of f at x_0 is then the mapping

$$f'(x_0) : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, x \mapsto \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x_0) \cdot x.$$

Definition 1.1

We call the mapping

$$\phi : (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}/(2\pi\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (r, \theta) \mapsto \phi(r, \theta) := (r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$$

polar coordinates.

It holds at point (r_0, θ_0) that

$$|\det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi(r_0, \theta_0))| = r_0.$$

Definition 1.2

For a set M and an equivalence relation \sim we call

$$[m] := \{n \in M \mid n \sim m\} \subset M$$

an equivalence class. We call M/\sim the set of equivalence classes from M wrt. \sim . It is also called quotient set.

Note that

$$M = \bigcup_{[a] \in M/\sim} [a]$$

and that the mapping

$$M \rightarrow M/\sim, \quad m \mapsto [m]$$

is canonical, meaning that every element in M is mapped to a unique equivalence class.

Remark 1.1

One can show that the mapping

$$\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/(2\pi\mathbb{Z})$$

is a group homomorphism and its kernel is $2\pi\mathbb{Z}$. Further, one can show that $\mathbb{R}/(2\pi\mathbb{Z})$ is isomorphic to $S^1 := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_2 = 1\}$.

CHAPTER 1

FIRST ORDER PDES

Definition 0.1

We call F ???

$$F(D^k u(x), \dots, Du(x), u(x), x) = 0, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$$

PDE of order $|k| := \sum_{i=1}^n k_i$ and $D^k u = (\partial^{k_1} \dots \partial^{k_n})u$

Definition 0.2

Classical Solution???

Remark 0.1

Some Notation:

We write $\dot{u} := \frac{\partial}{\partial t}u$ and if $u : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ we write $(1, b)\nabla u = \dot{u} + b\nabla_x u$.

We also often write $b\nabla u := \langle b, \nabla u \rangle$.

1 Homogeneous Transport

Consider the PDE

$$\dot{u} + b\nabla u = 0$$

which is called linear transport equation. We first assume that u is differentiable and satisfies the equation above, i.e. is a classical solution. For fixed initial values $(x_0, t_0) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}$ the function

$$z(s) := u(x_0 + sb, t_0 + s)$$

is differentiable (because u is). One can now show that its derivative vanishes

$$z'(s) = b\nabla_x u(x_0 + sb, t_0 + s) + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}u(x_0 + sb, t_0 + s)}_{=\dot{u}(x_0+sb, t_0+s)} \cdot 1 \stackrel{PDE}{=} 0.$$

Thus u is constant on the linear function $x(s) := x_0 + sb$. Therefore, u is constant along all lines with direction $(b, 1)$. Further, u is completely determined by all values on these parallel lines??? (WHy not $z(s, t) = u(x_0 + sb, t_0 + t)$???)

Definition 1.1

We call for such a transport equation the following

$$\dot{u} + f(u) = 0, \quad u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$$

Cauchy problem. Here $\dot{u} + f(u) = 0$ is called conservation law and f is the flux (stems from inflow and outflow) function.

For initial values (x_0, t_0) we can now solve the PDE, this is because the solution u is constant on $x(t)$ and thus

$$u(x(t), t) = u(x_0 + tb, t) \stackrel{\text{const}}{=} u(x_0, 0) = g(x_0) = g(x - tb)$$

where we used that $x = x_0 + tb$ is equivalent to $x_0 = x - tb$. This if g is differentiable on \mathbb{R}^n then the above solves the PDE. If g is not differentiable there does not exist a solution in a classical sense!

2 Inhomogenous linear transport Equation

We now consider

$$\dot{u} + b\nabla u = f$$

with initial values $(x_0, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}$ and again we define $z(s) := u(x_0 + sb, s)$ yielding

$$z'(s) = b\nabla u(x_0 + sb, s) + \dot{u}(x_0 + sb, s) \stackrel{PDE}{=} f(x_0 + sb, s)$$

Because we now $z(0) = u(x_0, 0) = g(x_0)$ we actually have to solve the IVP of an ODE

$$z'(s) = f(x_0 + sb, s), \quad z(0) = g(x_0).$$

We can integrate and determine $z(s)$ completely??? Only if the ODE is solvable???

The solution to the ODE tells us the value $z(s) = u(x_0 + sb, s)$ on the line $x(t) := s_0 + sb$. Using this, we can now write the solution down explicitly

$$\begin{aligned} u(x(t), t) = z(t) &= z(0) + \int_0^t z'(s) ds \\ &= g(x_0) + \int_0^t f(x_0 + sb, s) ds \\ &= g(x - tb) + \int_0^t \underbrace{f(x - tb - sb, s)}_{=f(x+(s-t)b,s)} ds \end{aligned}$$

which looks like the variation of constant approach from ODEs. In the following chapters, we want to generalize this approach for solving PDEs using ODEs.

3 Scalar Conservation Law

A scalar conservation law is a homogeneous non-linear transport equation with one space dimension

$$\dot{u}(x, t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u(x, t)) \stackrel{(*)}{=} \dot{u}(x, t) + f'(u(x, t)) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} u(x, t) = 0,$$

where (*) only works if f is differentiable. Then we have on every compact interval $[a, b]$ (why???) that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b u(x, t) dx = \int_a^b \dot{u}(x, t) dx \stackrel{PDE}{=} - \int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u(x, t)) dx = f(u(a, t)) - f(u(b, t)).$$

The change of a quantity in an interval $[a, b]$ thus only depends on the in- and outflow of that quantity at the boundary with speed f at time t .???

4 Reminder

Definition 4.1

A set X and a system of sets $\mathcal{O} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X) = \{A \mid A \subseteq X\}$ with

- $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{O}$
- $\mathcal{O}' \subset \mathcal{O} \Rightarrow \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{O}'} U \in \mathcal{O}$
- $U, V \in \mathcal{O} \Rightarrow U \cap V \in \mathcal{O}$

is called topology on X and (X, \mathcal{O}) is called topological space.

Definition 4.2

We call a topological space (X, \mathcal{O}) second countable if there exists a family $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{O}$, that is a basis of \mathcal{O} , i.e.

$$\forall U \in \mathcal{O} \forall x \in U \exists B \in \mathcal{B} : x \in B \subset U.$$

A topological space (X, \mathcal{O}) is called Hausdorff, if

$$\forall x, y \in X \text{ with } x \neq y \exists U_x, U_y \text{ open areas around } x \text{ and } y \text{ respectively: } U_x \cap U_y = \emptyset.$$

Definition 4.3

A C^r -Atlas of dimension m on a Set X is a family of Maps $(U_i, \varphi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ with $U_i \subset X$ and $\bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} U_i = X$ and homeomorphisms $\varphi : U_i \rightarrow \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ open such that for all $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ with $U_i \cap U_j \neq \emptyset$ we have that

$$\varphi_i \circ \varphi_j^{-1} : \varphi_j(U_i \cap U_j) \rightarrow \varphi_i(U_i \cap U_j)$$

is in $C^{1,r} := \{u \in C^r \mid D^\alpha u \in C^r, |\alpha| \leq r\}$.

Definition 4.4

A $C^{r,1}$ Manifold X of dimension m is a Hausdorff, second countable topological space with a at most $C^{1,r}$ -Atlas $\{(U_i, \varphi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}\}$ where $\varphi_i : U \rightarrow \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ are Homeomorphisms and

Definition 4.5

A topological space (X, \mathcal{O}) is called connected if the only subsets of X , that are open and closed are \emptyset and X itself. Local Connected means that for every $x \in X$ every ball around x contains a connected area of X .

Theorem 4.6

1. Non empty subsets X of \mathbb{R} are connected $\iff X$ is a bounded or unbounded interval.
2. \mathbb{R} is connected and also locally connected.

Proof. 1. Let $X \subset \mathbb{R}$ be connected and not empty. Assume that there exists an interval in X , where there is an element, that is not in X , i.e.

$$\exists a, b \in X \text{ with } a < b : \quad x \in (a, b) \text{ with } x \notin X.$$

Then we have that

$$U := (-\infty, x) \cap X = (-\infty, x] \cap X, \quad \text{and} \quad V := (x, \infty) \cap X = [x, \infty) \cap X.$$

Both equalities above hold, because we assumed that $x \notin X$. Because U and V are open and closed at the same time we get that we can make a disjoint decomposition of open sets: $X = U \cup V$, which leads to a contradiction, because X is no longer connected!

This yields that the above constructed $x \notin X$ cannot exist. Thus, all elements in $(a, b) \subset X$ have to be in X .

2. Global:

Choose $\inf A = -\infty$ and $\sup A = \infty$. Then

$$\forall x \in (\inf X, \sup X) \exists a, b \in X : \quad x \in (a, b)$$

i.e. its always contained in an interval. This yields

$$(\inf X, \sup X) \subset X \subset [\inf X, \sup X]$$

which leads to the conclusion that X has to be either $(\inf X, \sup X)$, $[\inf X, \sup X)$, $(\inf X, \sup X]$ or $[\inf X, \sup X]$.

2. Local:

We can use that a interval I is connected $\iff I = A \cup B$ of non empty subsets where at least one is not open.

Let $a \in A, b \in B$ with $a < b$ and define $c := \inf B \cap [a, b]$. If A is open then $c \in B$ and thus $[a, c) \subset A$. Because $c \notin A$ we get that B is not open and thus I is connected. \square

Definition 4.7

A mapping $f : V \rightarrow U$ between two open vector spaces is called Diffemorphism if

- Bijective
- everywhere continuous differentiable
- the inverse f^{-1} everywhere continuous differentiable.

Definition 4.8

A Homöorphism is a bijective mapping φ that is continuous and its inverse φ^{-1} is continuous.

Definition 4.9

Let X be a topological space, then we call a Homöomorphism $\phi : U \rightarrow V$, where $U \subset X$ open and $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open, a Map. We call U definition space and n the dimension of the Map.

Intuition: A Map assigns to every point $x \in U$ a unique coordinate $\phi(x) := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and for every coordinate we can reconstruct a unique point.

Definition 4.10

On a topological space (X, \mathcal{O}) we call two maps $\phi_1 : U_1 \rightarrow V$ and $\phi_2 : U_2 \rightarrow V$, with $U_1, U_2 \subset X$ open and $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open compatible, if

$$(\phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1})|_{U_1 \cap U_2} \text{ is a diffeomorphism, i.e. bijective, continuous and its inverse is continuous.}$$

The reasoning behind the diffeomorphism (???) is that we don't want information to be lost.

Remark 4.1

Note that $(\phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1})^{-1} = \phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1}$, i.e. no matter the order $\phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1}$ and $\phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1}$ we get a continuous bijective mapping from one of the definition spaces U_1 to the other U_2 , because

$$\phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1} : U_1 \rightarrow U_2 \text{ and } \phi_2 \circ \phi_1^{-1} : U_2 \rightarrow U_1.$$

Definition 4.11

For a topological space (X, \mathcal{O}) we call a family of maps $\phi_i : U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $X \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i$ is a cover of X an Atlas, if the maps are pairwise compatible.

Remark 4.2

We only want to consider Hausdorff spaces, because ???.

The topological space

$$X := \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} O_i \cup (\{0^*\} \cup 0) \cup (\{0^*\} \cup (O \setminus \{0\}))$$

where $\bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} O_i$ is an open cover of \mathbb{R} and 0^* is some element, that is not in \mathbb{R} , and $O \subset \mathbb{R}$ is an open area around 0. The two maps

$$\phi_1 : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0^*\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x \text{ and } \phi_2 : (\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0^*\}) \cup \{0^*\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}} + 0 \mathbf{1}_{\{0^*\}}$$

are an Atlas of X , as their definition space is a cover of X .

This is space, that we do not want to consider, because it's not a Hausdorff space, because for arbitrary $V \subset \mathbb{R}$ open area of 0 and $W \subset X$ open area of 0^* there exists $O \subset \mathbb{R}$ open area of 0 with $0^* \in O$.

Definition 4.12: Manifold

We call a topological Hausdorff space with an Atlas differentiable Manifold.

The Idea here is that using an open cover of the topological space X , for each open set, we map using a map to an open subset of euclidean space, i.e. this what we call locally euclidean.

5 Non-characteristic Hypersurfaces

We now consider $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $W \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ open as the first order PDE

$$F(\nabla u(x), u(x), x) = 0$$

where the solution $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined on the open domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and has the boundary condition

$$u(y) = g(y), \quad \forall y \in \Sigma := \{x \in \Omega \mid \varphi(x) = \varphi(x_0)\}$$

on the level set of a function φ .

In this section we will show that we can reformulate the boundary condition of the Cauchy problem as

$$u(y) = g(y), \quad \forall y \in \Omega \cap H, \text{ where } H := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x e_n = x_0 e_n = 0\}$$

is the unique hyperplane through $x_0 \in \Omega$ that is orthogonal to $e_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$.

If $\nabla \varphi(x_0) \neq 0$ we can assume w.l.o.g that $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \varphi(x_0) \neq 0$ which leads with the inverse function theorem to the conclusion that

$$x \mapsto \Phi(x) := (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, \varphi(x))$$

is continuous differentiable and for every x in an open neighborhood of x_0 it holds that $x = \Phi^{-1}(x)$. Then it holds that

$$\varphi(x) = \varphi(x_0) \iff y e_n = (\Phi(x))_n = \varphi(x).$$

We call this straightening of the boundary at x_0 . Then for a function $v : \Omega' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $u := v \circ \Phi$ we get that

$$\nabla u(x) = \nabla v(\Phi(x)) = \nabla v(y) \Phi'(\Phi^{-1}(y)),$$

where Φ' is the Jacobi Matrix. Thus, we get the relation that u is a solution of $F(\nabla u(x), u(x), x) = 0 \iff v$ is a solution of

$$G(\nabla v(y), v(y), y) := F(\nabla v(y) \Phi'(\Phi^{-1}(y)), v(y), \Phi^{-1}(y)) = 0$$

Next, we ask ourselves the question what information we can gather about u using the Hyperplane H ? Due to the fact that the Hyperplane is orthogonal to e_n , we can compute the partial derivatives of u on the hyperplane in $n - 1$ directions, i.e. for $x_0 \in H$:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x_0 + h e_i) - u(x_0)}{h} \stackrel{\text{Boundary}}{=} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x_0 + h e_i) - g(x_0)}{h} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} g(x_0), i = 1, \dots, n - 1.$$

This does not work for $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} g(x_0)$, because g is only defined on $H \cap \Omega$ which is orthogonal to e_n .

Remark 5.1

For future purposes we define

$$p_{0,i} := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x_0), \quad p_i := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x), \quad p_0 := (p_{0,1}, \dots, p_{0,n}), \quad p := (p_1, \dots, p_n)$$

and

$$z = u(x), \quad z_0 := u(x_0).$$

We then only write

$$F(\nabla u(x_0), u(x_0), x_0) = F(p_0, g(x_0), x_0) = 0.$$

Whether or not the PDE has a solution hence depends on F and the initial condition g . Next, follows a simple criterion for the existence of a solution.

Definition 5.1

Consider the PDE $F(p, z, x) = 0$ with $2n + 1$ variables and suppose there exists a solution (p_0, z_0, x_0) . We call the hyperplane $H := \{x \mid x_n = x_{0,n}\}$ non-characteristic at $x_0 := (x_{0,1}, \dots, x_{0,n})$ if

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p_n} F(p_0, z_0, x_0) \neq 0.$$

Example 5.1

Consider

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} = 0, \quad u(x_1, 0) = g(x_1)$$

i.e. the PDE is for $n = 2$ given by $F(p_1, p_2, z, x_1, x_2) = p_1 = 0$. We then see that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p_2} F(p, z, x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial p_2} p_1 = 0$$

which implies that the non-characteristic property does not hold. This now leads to two observations

- The PDE and the initial condition are only compatible if g is constant, i.e. we need

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} g(x) = 0, \quad x \in H \cap \Omega.$$

to hold

- ???

Theorem 5.2

Let $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous differentiable and $x_0 \in \Omega \cap H$, $z_0 := g(x_0)$ and

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, n-1 : \quad p_{0,i} := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} g(x_0).$$

If there exists a $p_{0,n}$ with $F(p_0, z_0, x_0) = 0$ and H is non-characteristic at x_0 , then for $\Omega_{x_0} \subset \Omega$ open neighborhood of x_0 we have that

$$\exists x \in \Omega_{x_0} \cap H : \quad F(q(x), g(x), x) = 0, \quad q_i(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} g(x), i = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad q(x_0) = p_0.$$

Proof. We define the function $l : (x, q_n) \mapsto F(q_1(x), \dots, q_{n-1}(x), q_n, g(x), x)$, then by assumption of the PDE we have that

$$l(x_0, p_{0,n}) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} l(x_0, p_{0,n}) \neq 0$$

although the second condition stems from the fact that we assumed that H is not characteristic at x_0 . The non negativity then yields that the inverse exists wrt. the partial derivative and we can apply the implicit theorem, i.e. there exist $\Omega_{x_0} \subset \Omega \cap H$, $W \subset \mathbb{R}$, $O \subset (\Omega \cap H) \times \mathbb{R}$ open neighborhoods around $x_0/l(x_0, p_{0,n})/(x_0, p_{0,n})$, then there exists a $q_n : V \times W \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\forall z \in W : \quad l^{-1}(\{z\}) \cap O = \text{Graph}(q_n(\cdot, z)).$$

???

□

6 Method of Characteristics

We now want to find a more general approach for the characteristics. Up to now we have done it in every example by hand. In general, we want to solve the PDE on some curve along the domain. These curves will be later ODEs. Let $x(s)$ be some curve on the domain and define $z(s) := u(x(s))$ as the solution along that curve. We also need to consider $p(s) := \nabla u(x(s))$, the gradient along this curve, as this appears in the PDE F . The big question is now, how we should choose this curve $s \mapsto x(s)$? We begin by noticing that

$$p'_i(s) = \frac{d}{ds} \frac{\partial u(x(s))}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 u(x(s))}{\partial x_j \partial x_i} x'_j(s).$$

Using this we now want to reformulate the total derivative of $F(\nabla u(x), u(x), x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{d}{ds} F(\nabla u(x), u(x), x) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} F(p, u(x), x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} p_j + \frac{\partial}{\partial u} F(p, u(x), x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F(p, u(x), x). \end{aligned}$$

Due to commutivity $\partial_i \partial_j u = \partial_j \partial_i u$ and the above equality with zero we get that the above is equivalent to

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} F(p, u(x), x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} p_i = - \frac{\partial}{\partial u} F(p, u(x), x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F(p, u(x), x).$$

Next, we want to eliminate the explicit dependence of u . As the curve x was chosen up to now as arbitrary, if one compares with the equation with p'_i , we can simplify, if we choose

$$x'_j(s) := \frac{\partial F(p, u(x), x)}{\partial p_j}$$

i.e. yielding

$$p'_i(s) = \sum_{j=1}^n \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} F(p, u(x), x)}_{=x'_j(s)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} p_i = -\frac{\partial}{\partial u} F(p, u(x), x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F(p, u(x), x).$$

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL CONCEPTS

1 Divergence Theorem

Now follows a generalization of fundamental theorem of calculus, i.e. partial integration to higher dimensions. In order for this to be feasible, we assume that $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is some compact space which then implies that $\partial\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. We can show that its a submanifold, which we now define.

Definition 1.1

For $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ the Graph of f is defined as

$$\text{graph}(f) := \{(x, y) \in U \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \mid y = f(x)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n.$$

We neglect the order of the components in \mathbb{R}^{n-k}

Definition 1.2

A subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is called k -dimensional submanifold if it is a k -dimensional graph locally, i.e.

$$\forall x \in A \exists O_x \subset \mathbb{R}^n \text{ open area around } x : A \cap O_x \text{ is a } k\text{-dimensional Graph.}$$

Definition 1.3

A Graph or submanifold is in C^l if the function f of the Graph is in $f \in C^l$.

Remark 1.1

The Graph $(x, f(x))$ of a function $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ can be written as a parametrization

$$\phi : U \rightarrow \text{graph}(f), x \mapsto (x, f(x)), \quad U \subset \mathbb{R}^m, \text{graph}(f) \subset \mathbb{R}^{m+n}$$

and for $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)$ the Jacobian of the parametrization is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi(x_0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & & 1 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_1(x_0) & \cdots & & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} f_1(x_0) \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_n(x_0) & \cdots & & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} f_n(x_0) \end{pmatrix}$$

and is of full rank, due to the identity matrix.

Example 1.1

Counterexample of regular parametrization.

Definition 1.4

Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a subset with regular parametrization $\phi : U \rightarrow A$ with $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ and $f \in C^0(A, \mathbb{R}^{m???})$, then we define

$$\int_A f d\sigma := \int_U f \circ \phi \cdot \det((\phi')^T \phi') d\mu$$

We will now show that the choice of parametrisation is independent of this Integral, which is indeed what is what we want to hold true. Further, one can interpret $\det((\phi')^T \phi')$ as a correction of the distortion of the parametrization.

Lemma 1.5

Let $A := \text{graph}(\lambda)$, then $\int_A f d\sigma$ is independent of the choice of the regular parametrization.

Proof. First, consider the parametrization of the graph, i.e.

$$\phi : U \rightarrow \text{graph}(f), x \mapsto (x, f(x)), \quad U \subset \mathbb{R}^m, \text{graph}(f) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}.$$

and second another Parametrization

$$\psi : V \rightarrow \text{graph}(f), \quad V \subset \mathbb{R}^m.$$

We then define $\Upsilon := \phi^{-1} \circ \psi : U \rightarrow V$, which we need to show is continuously differentiable, which is not

trivial (*). Then we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_A f d\sigma &= \int_U f \circ \phi \cdot \det((\phi')^T \phi') d\mu \\
&\stackrel{\text{Jacobi}}{\text{Trafo}}= \int_V \det(\Upsilon') \left((f \circ \phi) \sqrt{\det((\phi')^T \phi')} \right) \circ \Upsilon d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \phi \circ \Upsilon) \sqrt{\det((\phi')^T \phi')} \det(\Upsilon') d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \phi \circ \Upsilon) \sqrt{\det((\phi')^T \phi') \det(\Upsilon')^2} d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \phi \circ \Upsilon) \sqrt{\det((\phi')^T \phi') \det((\Upsilon')^T \Upsilon')} d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \phi \circ \Upsilon) \sqrt{\det((\phi')^T \phi' \cdot (\Upsilon')^T \Upsilon')} d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \phi \circ \Upsilon) \sqrt{\det(((\phi \circ \Upsilon)')^T (\phi \cdot \Upsilon)')} d\mu \\
&= \int_V (f \circ \psi) \sqrt{\det((\psi')^T \psi')} d\mu
\end{aligned}$$

In the Jacobi transformation we need that Υ is continuously differentiable and bijective on open sets and Υ' is invertible.

Continuously differentiable: For $\Upsilon := \phi^{-1} \circ \psi$ the continuous differentiability it is not clear, because ϕ^{-1} is only defined on A which is non-euclidean space, i.e. the chain rule does not apply directly. Hence, define

$$\Pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k, (x, y) \mapsto x$$

then it holds that $\Pi \circ \phi(x) = \Pi(x, \lambda(x)) = x$, i.e. $\Pi \circ \phi = Id$ which implies that

$$\Pi|_A = \phi^{-1}, \quad \text{as } \Phi^{-1} \text{ is only defined on } A.$$

which in turn implies that $\Upsilon = \phi^{-1} \circ \psi = \Pi_A \circ \psi$ which is by definition a composition of continuous differentiable functions. \square

2 Distributions

If a differentiable function is a distribution, the two types of derivatives are equal. Further distributions are differentiable (even infinitely often). The price we pay for that is that two distributions cannot be multiplied. An important tool will be a family of functions $(\lambda_\epsilon)_{\epsilon \geq 0}$ called mollifier with the two properties that

$$\text{supp } \lambda_\epsilon = \overline{B_\epsilon(0)}, \quad \text{and} \quad \int \lambda_\epsilon d\mu = 1.$$

An example for such a mollifier is

$$\lambda(x) := \begin{cases} C e^{\frac{1}{|x|^2-1}} & , |x| < 1 \\ 0 & , |x| \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

which is smooth on \mathbb{R}^n , its support is $\overline{B_\epsilon(0)}$ and it is non-negative. Note that this example already proves the existence of a test function, because we can choose C in such a way that its integral is 1. If we rescale x and λ we get the mollifier

$$\lambda_\epsilon(x) := \epsilon^{-n} \lambda(x/\epsilon)$$

which satisfies the properties??? We call it standard mollifier.

We also call mollifiers approximate identity, because of the following: For any $f \in C^0(\Omega; \mathbb{R})$ with $0 \in \Omega$ it holds with continuity that

$$\forall x \in B_\epsilon(0) : \quad f(x) \approx f(0).$$

This implies that

$$\int_{\Omega} f \lambda_\epsilon d\mu = \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} f \lambda_\epsilon d\mu \approx \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} f(0) \lambda_\epsilon d\mu = f(0).$$

In the next Lemma we show that there is even an equality as $\epsilon \searrow 0$.

Lemma 2.1

Let $f \in C(\Omega)$ and $(\lambda_\epsilon)_{\epsilon \geq 0}$ a mollifier. The following family

$$f_\epsilon(x) := \int_{\Omega} f(y) \lambda_\epsilon(x - y) d^n y$$

is smooth and converges uniformly on any compact subset of Ω to f as $\epsilon \searrow 0$. Same for derivatives???

Proof. 1.

Let $A \subset \Omega$ be compact then it holds that

$$\exists \epsilon > 0 \forall x \in A : \quad B_\epsilon(0) \subset \Omega.$$

Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |f_\epsilon(x) - f(x)| &= \left| \int_{\Omega} f(y) \lambda_\epsilon(x - y) d^n y - f(x) \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\Omega} f(y) \lambda_\epsilon(x - y) d^n y - \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \lambda_\epsilon(x - y) d^n y}_{=1} f(x) \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\Omega} (f(y) - f(x)) \lambda_\epsilon(x - y) d^n y \right| \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in B_\epsilon(0)} |f(y) - f(x)|. \end{aligned}$$

Due to the fact that continuous functions are uniformly continuous on a compact subset we get convergence $f_\epsilon \rightarrow f$ as $\epsilon \searrow 0$. 2.

If f is smooth we can compute the derivatives of f_ϵ in the following way: Warum 2ϵ ball???

□

For $f, g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we define the convolution as

$$(g * f)(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(x - y) f(y) d^n y = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(z) f(x - z) d^n z,$$

which can be shown to be linear, commutative and associative.

Remark 2.1

The advantage of convolution compared to pointwise multiplication is that it behaves nicely with differentiation. One can show that

$$\partial^\alpha (g * f) = (\partial^\alpha g) * f = g * (\partial^\alpha f).$$

Further one can show that convolution is volume preserving under the coordinate transform $z = y - x$ and $y = y$:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f * g)(x) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x - y) g(y) dx dy = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} -(-1) f(z) g(y) dz dy \\ &= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(z) dz \right) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(y) dy \right). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.2

Suppose f and g are rotationally symmetric around symm. around a and b respectively, i.e. for every O orthogonal transformation holds $f(a + x) = f(a + Ox)$. It then follows that $f * g$ is rotationally symmetric around $a + b$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} (f * g)(a + b + Ox) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + b + Ox - y) g(y) dy \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + b + Ox - (Oz + b)) g(Oz + b) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + O(x - z)) g(Oz + b) dz \\ &\stackrel{VSS}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + x - z) g(b + z) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + x - (y' - b)) g(b + y' - b) dy' \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(a + x - y' + b) g(b + y' - b) dy' \\ &= (f * g)(a + b + x) \end{aligned}$$

Although we used in $(*)$ that $dy = dz$. This is due to $y(z) := Oz + b$ has the jacobian $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} y(z_0) = O$ and thus with the Jacobi-transformation theorem we have $\det(O) = 1$. \square

For every $f \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ we define

$$F_f : C_0^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \phi \mapsto \int_{\Omega} f \phi d\mu$$

and will see that information wrt. derivatives is retained in this linear form. The idea of distributions is to consider not just functions integrated against test functions, but all linear forms F defined on $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$???. To evade the difficulty of defining the topology on $C^\infty(\Omega)$, we use an equivalent criterion. $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ is the set of functions $f \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ that satisfy $f_n \rightarrow f \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) : \iff$

- $\exists K \subset \Omega$ compact $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$: $\text{supp} f_n \subset K$
- $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$: $\sup_K |\partial^\alpha f_n - \partial^\alpha f| \rightarrow 0, n \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark 2.2

We define the seminorm

$$\|\cdot\|_{K,\alpha} : C_0^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \phi \mapsto \|\phi\|_{K,\alpha} := \sup_{x \in K} |\partial^\alpha \phi(x)|.$$

It is a seminorm, as constant functions $f \equiv \text{const.}$ have $\|f\|_{K,\alpha} = 0$, but they are not zero!

Note that convergence $\|f_n - f\|_{K,\alpha} \rightarrow 0$ is stronger than $\|f_n - f\|_\infty$. This can be seen by the following counterexample.

Example 2.1

Define $f_n(x) := \frac{1}{n} \sin(nx) \mathbf{1}_{[-1,1]}(x)$. Then we have that

$$\|f_n(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{n}.$$

and because $\frac{1}{n}$ converges to zero, we get converge in $\|\cdot\|_\infty$. But on the other hand for $\alpha = 1$ and $n = 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{x \in [-1,1]} |\partial_x f_n(x)| &= \sup_{x \in [-1,1]} |\cos(nx) \mathbf{1}_{[-1,1]}(x) + \frac{1}{n} \sin(nx) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{1}_{[-1,1]}(x)| \\ &\geq \sup_{x \in [-1,1]} |\cos(nx)| = 1, \end{aligned}$$

i.e. it is bounded by below by 1 for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and thus not convergent to zero.

Definition 2.3

On an open $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ we define $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ the space of all linear maps

$$F : \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which are continuous wrt. seminorms $\|\cdot\|_{K,\alpha}$ as the space of distributions, i.e.

$$\forall K \subset \Omega \text{ compact } \exists \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_M, M < \infty, C_1, \dots, C_M > 0 \forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) : |F(\phi)| \leq C_1 \|\phi\|_{K,\alpha_1} + \dots + C_M \|\phi\|_{K,\alpha_M}.$$

Note that with continuity we get that

$$\phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \quad \Rightarrow \quad F(\phi_n) \rightarrow F(\phi) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}.$$

and

$$\forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) : \quad F_n(\phi) \rightarrow F(\phi) \quad \Rightarrow \quad F_n \rightarrow F \text{ in } \mathcal{D}(\Omega).$$

Example 2.2

First, we show that $F : L^1_{loc}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a distribution. We show continuity:

$\forall K \subset \Omega$ compact and $\forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ with $\text{supp} \phi \subset K$:

$$|F_f(\phi)| \leq \int_K |f| |\phi| dx \leq \sup_{x \in K} |\phi(x)| \int_K |f| dx = \sup_{x \in K} |\phi(x)| \underbrace{\|f\|_{L^1(K)}}_{\leq \text{const.}}$$

Next, one can show that

$$\delta : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi \mapsto \phi(0)$$

is a distribution.???

Lemma 2.4

If $f \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ satisfies $F_f(\phi) \geq 0 \forall \phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ then it follows $f \geq 0$ a.e. and $L^1_{loc}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$, $f \mapsto F_f$ is injective.

Proof. For a mollifier $(\lambda_\epsilon)_{\epsilon>0}$ it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\lambda_\epsilon * f - f\|_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left| \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \lambda_\epsilon(y) f(x-y) d^n y - f(x) \right| d^n x \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \lambda_\epsilon(y) |f(x-y) - f(x)| d^n y d^n x \\ &\leq \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda_\epsilon(y) |f(x-y) - f(x)| d^n x d^n y \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in B_\epsilon(0)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda_\epsilon(y) |f(x-y) - f(x)| d^n x \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in B_\epsilon(0)} \lambda_\epsilon(y) \|f(\cdot - y) - f(\cdot)\|_{L^1(\Omega)} \end{aligned}$$

For step functions

$$f(x) := \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \mathbf{1}_{Q_i}(x), \quad \bigcup_{i=1}^n Q_i = ???$$

Then using triangle inequality we get

$$\|\lambda_\epsilon * f - f\|_1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \|\lambda_\epsilon * a_i - a_i\|_{L^1(Q_i)} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sup_{y \in B_\epsilon(0)} \|a_i - a_i\|_{L^1(Q_i)} ???$$

and because the step function lie dense in $L^1(\Omega)$ in the limit and choosing $\epsilon > 0$ sufficiently small we get that the supremum gets arbitrary small. Nur lim inf gegen Null gezeigt??? Muss schnell genug gegen 0???. \square

Let $\Omega' \subset \Omega$ then every test function on Ω' is also a test function on Ω . If we restrict a distribution on Ω only to Ω' it is again a distribution. We call this restriction. Using restrictions we can define the support of a distribution. The complement of the support of a distribution is the union over all sets on which the distribution/restriction vanishes:

$$(\text{supp} F)^C = \bigcup_{\Omega' \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)} \{\Omega' \subset \Omega \mid F(\phi) = 0, \forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega')\}$$

The support of a delta distribution is $\{0\}$ and for a $L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ is the support in the classical sense.

We now want to define as many operations as possible on distributions and thus extend operations on functions. The idea is to compare F_f and F_{Af} , where A is some operation. If we can write the operation in a way that only depends on the distribution and not directly on the function it is a suitable definition of be generalized. First, we consider the multiplication by a smooth function $g \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ and $F : L^1_{loc}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$F_{fg}(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} (gf)\phi dx = \int_{\Omega} f(g\phi) dx = F_f(g\phi).$$

Thus we define the multiplication by a smooth function $g \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ in the following way.

Definition 2.5

For $g \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ define

$$gF : \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi \mapsto F(g\phi).$$

Remark 2.3

Remember that for two topological spaces X and Y the mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called an embedding of two topological spaces, if it is bijective, continuous and its inverse is continuous. ...???

Note that the product of a distribution with a non-smooth function is not defined, because then $g\phi$ is not a test function.

The most important operation for distributions is its derivative. Integrating by parts yields

$$F_{\partial_i f}(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \partial_i f \phi d^n x = - \int_{\Omega} f \partial_i \phi d^n x = -F_f(\partial_i \phi).$$

Definition 2.6

For all $F \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ we define

$$\partial_i F : \mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi \mapsto -F(\partial_i \phi).$$

Hence, test functions are infinitely differentiable.

Remark 2.4

These two new operations are distributions again and are clearly linear. One would need to show as well that they obey the continuity definition.

We now want to extend convolutions to distributions. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} F_{g*f}(\phi) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (g*f)\phi d^n x = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(x-y)f(y)\phi(x) d^n y d^n x \\ &\stackrel{\text{Fubini}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \phi(x)g(x-y) d^n x f(y) d^n y = F_f(\phi * Pg), \end{aligned}$$

although $(Pg)(z) := g(-z)$ is the point reflection operator.

Definition 2.7

We define for $g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $F \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$

$$g * F : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi \mapsto F(\phi * Pg).$$

One would need to check that this is again a distribution and it is even a regular distribution, i.e. $\phi * Pg \in (L_{loc}^1(\Omega))'$.

Lemma 2.8

Let $g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be a test function and a distribution $F \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then their convolution satisfy

$$g * F \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

and we can write it as

$$g * F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto F(T_x Pg),$$

where $(T_x \phi)(y) := \phi(y - x)$ is the translation operator.

Finally, it holds that $\text{supp } g * F \subset \text{supp } g + \text{supp } F$.

Proof. We first show existence and continuity of $g * F$.

Existence:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{supp } T_x Pg &= \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid y \in \text{supp } Pg(\cdot - x)\} = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid y \in \text{supp } g(x - \cdot)\} \\ &= \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x - y \in \text{supp } g(\cdot)\} = x - \text{supp } g \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $F \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we have that $F(T_x Pg)$ is well defined, because $\text{supp } g$ is well defined.

Continuity:

First, we see that $(T_x Pg)(y) = Pg(y - x) = g(x - y)$, g is continuous and continuity implies uniform continuity on a compact subset, we have that $x \mapsto T_x Pg$ is continuous wrt. $\|\cdot\|_{K,0}$. Remember, that $K \subset \text{supp } T_x Pg$ is compact. We now need to show that

$$\frac{T_{x+\epsilon h} - T_x}{\epsilon} g \xrightarrow{\text{uniformly}} T_x \left(\sum_{i=1}^n -h_i \partial_i g \right), \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0, \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

This is due to the following: Remember that with Taylor and the mean value theorem

$$\frac{g(x - \epsilon h) - g(x)}{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{\text{uniformly}} -h \langle h, \nabla g(y) \rangle, \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

Using the fact that

$$\frac{T_{x+\epsilon h} - T_x}{\epsilon} g = T_x \frac{T_{\epsilon h} - Id}{\epsilon} g = T_x \frac{T_{\epsilon h} g - g}{\epsilon} = T_x \frac{g(\cdot - \epsilon h) - g(\cdot)}{\epsilon}$$

it follows that

$$\frac{T_{x+\epsilon h} - T_x}{\epsilon} g \xrightarrow{\text{uniformly}} T_x \langle h, \nabla g(x) \rangle = T_x \left(\sum_{i=1}^n -h_i \partial_i g \right).$$

Due to the fact that F is a distribution, i.e. continuous we get that

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \quad F\left(\frac{T_{x+\epsilon h} - T_x}{\epsilon}g\right) \rightarrow F\left(T_x \left(\sum_{i=1}^n -h_i \partial_i g\right)\right), \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

which means that $x \mapsto F\left(\frac{T_{x+\epsilon h} - T_x}{\epsilon}g\right) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n; \mathbb{R})$, for $F \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

We now show the equality. Above it was shown that $x \mapsto T_x P g$ is smooth on $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, i.e. wrt. the semi-norm $\|\cdot\|_{K,\alpha}$. We choose

$$K \subset \text{supp } T_x P g = x - \text{supp } g$$

as a compact subset. Thus a finite disjoint decomposition exists

$$K := \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i.$$

Then the Riemann sum is given by

$$S_n := \sum_{i=1}^n (T_{x_j} P g)(\cdot) \phi(x_i) |E_i|.$$

Due to $\text{supp } T_x P g = x - \text{supp } g$ we have that $T_x P g \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Multiplying with constants and a finite sum still leads to $S_n \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. It then follows that for $x \in \text{supp } \phi$

$$\left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (T_x P g)(\cdot) \phi(x) d^n x - S_n \right\|_{K,\alpha} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |E_i| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \|(T_x P g)(\cdot) \phi(x) - (T_{x_i} P g)(\cdot) \phi(x_i)\|_{K,\alpha} d^n x$$

□

CHAPTER 3

LAPLACE EQUATION

We begin by solving the Laplace equation that is given by

$$\Delta u = f$$

....

1 Fundamendal Solution

This equation is invaraint wrt. all rotations and translations. This leads to the notion that our solution should also have these conditions. We defeine $r := |x| := \sqrt{x^T x}$ which defines the length of the position vector, i.e. the solution should only depend on this r . Further, define $u(x) := v(r)$. Then for $w(r) := v'(r)$

$$\nabla_x u(x) = v'(r) \nabla_x r = v'(r) \frac{2x}{2|x|}$$

which leads to

$$\Delta_x u(x) = \nabla_x \cdot \nabla_x u(x) = \nabla_x \cdot (v'(r) \frac{x}{|x|}) = v''(r) + \frac{n-1}{r} v'(r) = 0.$$

We see that this is only an ODE in r . Solving it is not hard: First it can be seen that

$$v''(r) + \frac{n-1}{r} v'(r) = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad (r^{n-1} v'(r))' = \frac{v'(r)}{n-1} r^{n-2} + v'' r^{n-1} = 0.$$

Then we define $C_1 := r^{n-1} v'(r)$ which can also be written as $v'(r) = C_1 r^{1-n}$. This formulation now leads to

$$v(r) = \begin{cases} C_2 + \frac{C_1}{2-n} r^{2-n} & , n \neq 2 \\ C_2 + C_1 \log r & , n = 2. \end{cases}$$

Note that for the solution the constant C_2 can be chosen arbitrarily as it will vanish whilst applying the Laplace operator. With this in mind we define

$$\Phi(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{C_1}{2-n} r^{2-n} & , n \neq 2 \\ C_1 \log r & , n = 2. \end{cases}$$

We now need to determine C_1 .

Definition 1.1

The solution of the Laplace equation is

$$\Phi(x) := \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log |x| & , n = 2 \\ \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n} \frac{1}{|x|^{n-2}} & , n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

where ω_n denotes the volume of the n -dimensional unit ball.

Theorem 1.2

For $f \in C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ the solution of the Poisson equation $\Delta u = f$ is given by the convolution

$$u(x) = (\Phi * f)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(x-y)f(y)d^n y = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(z)f(x-z)d^n z.$$

Proof. The first equality in the theorem comes from the substitution $z = x - y$. Note that the second integral is twice continuously differentiable, because we can pull in the derivative in the Integral due to the fact that $f \in C_0^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(z) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} f(x-z) d^n z.$$

We will now write $\Delta_x u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(y) \Delta_x f(x-y) d^n y$. The trick now will be to decompose the integral into a open area around zero (where there is a singularity) and everything else. Then we will let the radius of that open area go to zero. Then the integral evaluated at the singularity will be zero, as it will be a zero set. Define for $\epsilon > 0$:

$$\Delta_x u(x) = \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} \Phi(y) \Delta_x f(x-y) d^n y}_{=: J_\epsilon} + \underbrace{\int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \Phi(y) \Delta_x f(x-y) d^n y}_{=: I_\epsilon}$$

Step 1 I_ϵ :

We want to show that the integral

$$|I_\epsilon| := \left| \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \Phi(x) \Delta_y f(y-x) d^n x \right| \leq \|\Delta_y f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(x)| d^n x$$

is finite and converges to zero. Note that using the Co-Area theorem we have that

$$B_\epsilon(0) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid l(x) := |x| < \epsilon\}$$

and due to $1 = |\nabla l(x)|$ we get that

$$\int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \phi(x) d^n x = \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} \phi(x) |\nabla l(x)| d^n x = \int_0^\epsilon \int_{\partial B_r(0)} \phi d\sigma dr.$$

We now want to do a Jacobain transformation to the space of S^{n-1} . For this define the map $T : S^{n-1} \rightarrow \partial B_r(0), s \mapsto T(s) := rs$. But, we have the problem, that the Jacobian is only defined for subsets for euclidean spaces! Thus we need to introduce two new maps. First, $\psi : V \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \rightarrow \partial B_r(0)$ and $\phi : U \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \rightarrow S^{n-1}$, where U, V are open subsets. Both are regular parametrizations. Then we write for the composition

$$F := \psi^{-1} \circ T \circ \phi : U \rightarrow V.$$

Its Jacobian we do can calculate. First, using the chain rule

$$DF(x) = D(\psi^{-1})(T(\phi(x)))DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x).$$

Then we use that for $y \in U$:

$$Id = D(\psi \circ \psi^{-1})(y) = D\psi(\psi^{-1}(y))D\psi^{-1}(y) \iff D\psi^{-1}(y) = (D\psi(\psi^{-1}(y)))^{-1}.$$

Using this in the above we get that

$$\begin{aligned} DF(x) &= D(\psi^{-1})(T(\phi(x)))DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x) \\ &= (D\psi(\psi^{-1}(T(\phi(x))))^{-1}DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x) \\ &= (D\psi(F(x)))^{-1}DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x) \end{aligned}$$

We then have that

$$DF(x) = (D\psi(F(x)))^{-1}DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x) \iff D\psi(F(x))DF(x) = DT(\phi(x))D\phi(x)$$

We now use the general fact that $AB = C$ implies that

$$(AB)^T AB = B^T A^T AB = C^T C$$

which leads to

$$\det(B^T B) \det(A^T A) = \det(C^T C) \iff \det(A^T A) = \frac{\det((C^T C))}{\det((B^T B))}.$$

We do this so complicated, as the images are manifolds, i.e. $n-1$ dimensional subspaces in \mathbb{R}^n and thus we cannot calculate the determinant, as their Jacobians are not square matrices. Now using $DT(\phi(x)) = Id \cdot r$ we get that

$$\det(DF^T DF) = \frac{\overbrace{\det(Id \cdot r)^2}^{=r^{2(n-1)}} \det(D\phi^T D\phi)}{\det(D\psi(F)^T D\psi(F))}.$$

Due to the fact that F has a quadratic Jacobian we have

$$|\det(DF)| = r^{n-1} \sqrt{\frac{\det(D\phi^T D\phi)}{\det(D\psi(F)^T D\psi(F))}} \quad (3.1)$$

Let A_i be a cover of $\partial B_r(0)$ and O_i a cover of S^{n-1} , then due to $\psi \circ F = T \circ \phi$ the following calculation holds

for any $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{B_\epsilon(0)} f(x) d^n x \stackrel{Co-Area}{=} \int_0^\epsilon \int_{\partial B_r(0)} f d\sigma dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{A_i} \underbrace{h_i f}_{=: f_i} d\sigma dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{V_i} f_i \circ \psi \sqrt{\det(D\psi^T D\psi)} d\mu_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} dr \\
&\stackrel{Jacobi Transform}{=} \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{U_i} (f_i \circ \psi \circ F) \sqrt{\det((D\psi(F))^T D\psi(F))} |\det(DF)| d\mu_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{U_i} (f_i \circ T \circ \phi) \sqrt{\det((D\psi(F))^T D\psi(F))} |\det(DF)| d\mu_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} dr \\
&\stackrel{Eq.3.1}{=} \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{U_i} (f_i \circ T \circ \phi) \sqrt{\det((D\psi(F))^T D\psi(F))} r^{n-1} \sqrt{\frac{\det(D\phi^T D\phi)}{\det(D\psi(F)^T D\psi(F))}} d\mu_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{U_i} (f_i \circ T \circ \phi) r^{n-1} \sqrt{\det(D\phi^T D\phi)} d\mu_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \sum_i \int_{O_i} (f_i \circ T) r^{n-1} d\sigma dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon \int_{S^{n-1}} (f \circ T) r^{n-1} d\sigma dr
\end{aligned}$$

Then it holds that

$$\int_{B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(y)| d^n y \stackrel{above}{=} \int_0^\epsilon \int_{S^{n-1}} |\Phi \circ T| d\sigma r^{n-1} dr = \int_0^\epsilon \int_{S^{n-1}} |\Phi(rx)| d\sigma(x) r^{n-1} dr.$$

We see that for all $x \in S^{n-1}$ it follows $|x| = 1$ and thus

$$\Phi(xr) = \Phi(re), \quad \text{where } e \text{ is any unit vector.}$$

Due to the fact that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{S^{n-1}} 1 d\sigma(x) &= \int_{S^{n-1}} |x|^2 d\sigma(x) = \int_{S^{n-1}} F \nu d\sigma = \int_{B_1(0)} \operatorname{div} F d^n x \\
&= \int_{B_1(0)} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} x_i d^n x = n \lambda^n(B_1(0)) =: n \omega_n
\end{aligned}$$

it finally follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(y)| d^n y &= \int_0^\epsilon \int_{S^{n-1}} |\Phi(rx)| d\sigma(x) r^{n-1} dr = \int_0^\epsilon r^{n-1} |\Phi(re)| \int_{S^{n-1}} 1 d\sigma(x) dr \\
&= \int_0^\epsilon r^{n-1} |\Phi(re)| n \omega_n dr \\
&= \begin{cases} \int_0^\epsilon r |\log(r)| dr & , n = 2 \\ \int_0^\epsilon r^{n-1} \frac{1}{(n-2)r^{n-2}} dr & , n \geq 3 \end{cases} \\
&= \begin{cases} \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} (|\log(\epsilon)| + \frac{1}{2}) & , n = 2 \\ \int_0^\epsilon r \frac{1}{n-2} dr = \frac{\epsilon^2}{2(n-2)} & , n \geq 3 \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that in the case $n = 2$ we have $\omega_n = \pi$. Both terms are finite! And because the upper bounds depend on ϵ it follows that $I_\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Step 2 J_ϵ :

First notice that for $z := x - y$ it holds that $\sum_j \partial f(z) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} z = \partial_i f(x - z) = -\sum_j \partial f(z) \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} z$ and thus $|\Delta_x f(x - y)| = |\Delta_y f(x - y)|$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned}
|J_\epsilon| &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(y)| |\Delta_y f(x - z)| d^n y \\
&\quad \phi \Delta f = (\phi \nabla f)' - \nabla \phi \nabla f \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} |\nabla_y \Phi(y)| |\nabla f(x - z)| d^n y - \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} (|\Phi(y)| |\nabla f(x - z)|)' d^n y \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} |\nabla_y \Phi(y)| |\nabla f(x - z)| d^n y - \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(y)| |\nabla f(x - z)| N d\sigma(y) \\
&=: K_\epsilon - L_\epsilon.
\end{aligned}$$

First with the same arguments as above it follows

$$|L_\epsilon| \leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} |\Phi(y)| d\sigma(y) \leq \begin{cases} C\epsilon |\log(\epsilon)| & , n = 2 \\ C\epsilon & , n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

This clearly converges to zero as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. For K_ϵ we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
K_\epsilon &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} \nabla_y \Phi(y) \nabla_y f(x - y) d^n y \\
&= \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \setminus B_\epsilon(0) \Delta_y \Phi(y) f(x - y) d^n y}_{=0} - \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} (\nabla_y \Phi(y) f(x - y))' d^n y \\
&= - \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} \nabla_y \Phi(y) f(x - y) N d\sigma(y).
\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\nabla \Phi(y) = -\frac{y}{n\omega_n |y|^n}$ and $N = -\frac{y}{|y|}$. Further, due to the fact that

$$\begin{aligned}
r^n n \omega_n &= n \int_{B_r(0)} 1 d^n x = \int_{B_r(0)} \nabla \cdot x d^n x = \int_{\partial B_r(0)} x N d\sigma(x) \\
&= \int_{\partial B_r(0)} x \frac{x}{|x|} d\sigma(x) = \int_{\partial B_r(0)} |x| d\sigma(x) = r \int_{\partial B_r(0)} d\sigma(x) = r \sigma_n(r)
\end{aligned}$$

The above is equivalent to $\sigma_n(r) = n\omega_n r^{n-1}$. This finally leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
K_\epsilon &= - \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} \nabla_y \Phi(y) f(x-y) N d\sigma(y) \\
&= \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} \frac{y}{n\omega_n |y|^n} f(x-y) (-1) \frac{y}{|y|} d\sigma(y) \\
&= - \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} \frac{|y|}{n\omega_n \epsilon^n} f(x-y) d\sigma(y) \\
&= - \frac{\epsilon}{n\omega_n \epsilon^n} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} f(x-y) d\sigma(y) \\
&= - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sigma_n(\epsilon)}}_{\rightarrow 1, \epsilon \rightarrow 0} \underbrace{\int_{\partial B_\epsilon(0)} f(x-y) d\sigma(y)}_{\rightarrow -f(x), \epsilon \rightarrow 0} \rightarrow -f(x), \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0,
\end{aligned}$$

because f is continuous. Thus in total we have shown that

$$\Delta_x u(x) = J_\epsilon + I_\epsilon = J_\epsilon + K_\epsilon - L_\epsilon \leq |J_\epsilon| + K_\epsilon + |L_\epsilon| \rightarrow -f(x), \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

□

Thus due to the fact that we can write for every $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
(f * \delta_0)(\phi) &= \delta_0(\phi * Pf) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\phi * Pf)(x) d\delta_0(x) \\
&= (\phi * Pf)(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \phi(x) d^n x \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (-\Delta_x u(x)) \phi(x) d^n x = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} -\Delta_x (\Phi * f) \phi(x) d^n x \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} ((-\Delta_x \Phi) * f) \phi(x) d^n x \\
&= (f * (-\Delta_x \Phi))(\phi),
\end{aligned}$$

it follows that $-\Delta_x \Phi = \delta_0$ in the distributional sense.

2 Mean Value Property

The value of u at the center of any $B_r(0)$ with compact closure ($\bar{A} := \{x \in \Omega \mid \forall \epsilon > 0 : \mathcal{U}_\epsilon(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$, i.e. open balls, that are close to A are also have a overlap with A) in Ω is equal to the mean of u on the boundary of the ball. In the following we will show that this property holds for any harmonic function. Remember, these were functions that satisfy $\Delta u = 0$. One can also show that if this mean value property holds for a function u then it is harmonic. We will also show that the mean on $B_r(x)$ is the mean over the means of u on $\partial B_{r'}(x)$ for all $r' \in [0, r]$. I.e. after having shown both directions, the mean value property is equivalent to functions being harmonic.

Lemma 2.1

- Let $u \in C^2(\Omega)$ be harmonic on an open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ containing $\overline{B_r(x)}$. The mean of u on $B_r(x)$ and on $\overline{B_r(x)}$ is equal to $u(x)$, i.e. the center.
- If for $u \in C^2(\Omega)$ the means on all Balls $B_r(x)$ with compact closure in Ω or all means on the boundaries of such balls is equal to $u(x)$ then u is harmonic.

Proof. Define for $x \in \Omega$ the mean of u on $\partial B_r(x) \subseteq \Omega$ as

$$\begin{aligned} S_x(r) &:= \frac{1}{r^{n-1}n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{r^{n-1}n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(x)} (u \circ T)(y) r^{n-1} d\sigma(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} (u \circ G)(ry) d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} u(x + ry) d\sigma(y) \end{aligned}$$

where $T : \partial B_1(x) \rightarrow \partial B_r(x)$, $y \mapsto ry$ and $G : \partial B_r(0) \rightarrow \partial B_r(x)$, $y \mapsto x + y$. The transformation with T has already been discussed. Transforming with G is only a translation and its Jacobian is trivially Id . Note that one would need to use parametrizations in order to calculate the Jacobian on euclidean spaces.

With the divergence theorem we get

$$\frac{d}{dr} S_x(r) = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \frac{d}{dr} u(x + ry) d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \nabla u(x + ry) y d\sigma(y)$$

Note that y is on $\partial B_1(0)$ a normal vector, i.e. $|y| = 1$ and if we consider $B_1(0)$ then it is an outward pointing normal vector. If we now transform back to $\partial B_r(x)$ then $\frac{y-x}{r} = \frac{y-x}{|y-x|}$ is an outward pointing normal vector! Thus we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr} S_x(r) &= \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \nabla u(x + ry) y d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \nabla u(x + ry) y d\sigma(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{n-1}n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(x)} \nabla u(y) \underbrace{\frac{y-x}{|y-x|}}_{=N} d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{r^{n-1}n\omega_n} \int_{B_r(x)} \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \nabla u(y)}_{=\Delta u(y)} d^n y. \end{aligned}$$

The above only holds for $\overline{B_r(x)}$ compact in Ω , because ????. If u is harmonic, i.e. by definition $\Delta u \equiv 0$, then it follows that $\frac{d}{dr} S_x(r) = 0$ for all such r , i.e. $S_x(r)$ is constant in r . This just means that the average on $\partial B_r(x)$ does not depend on r . Further, because u is continuous it follows that $S_x(r) \rightarrow u(x)$, $r \rightarrow 0$. Thus means that the mean is the center value, because $S_x(0) = u(x)$ and $S_x(\cdot)$ is constant.

Now it holds that

$$\int_{B_r(x)} u(y) d^n y = \int_{B_r(0)} u(x+y) d^n y = \int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y + \int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n < 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y + \underbrace{\int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n = 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y}_{=0}.$$

In order to calculate these two integrals we need to do a Jacobi transformation. We take the mapping

$$\phi_+ : \{(z, s) \in B_r^{n-1}(0) \times (0, r) \mid |z| < s\} \rightarrow B_r(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}, (z, s) \mapsto \left(z, \sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}\right)$$

and

$$\phi_- : \{(z, s) \in B_r^{n-1}(0) \times (0, r) \mid |z| < s\} \rightarrow B_r(0) \cap \{y_n < 0\}, (z, s) \mapsto \left(z, -\sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}\right).$$

which gives us

$$\int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y = \int_0^r \int_{B_s^{n-1}(0)} u\left(x + \left(z, \sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}\right)\right) \underbrace{|\det(D\phi_+(z, s))|}_{\stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}}} d^{n-1} z ds.$$

We now need to find a parametrization ψ that satisfies $\det((\psi')^T \psi') = \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}}$ and then we can write it as an integral over a manifold. For that define

$$\psi_+ : B_s^{n-1}(0) \rightarrow \partial B_s^n(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}, z \mapsto \left(z, \sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}\right).$$

This gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y &= \int_0^r \int_{B_s^{n-1}(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u\left(x + \underbrace{\left(z, \sqrt{s^2 - |z|^2}\right)}_{=\psi_+(z)}\right) |\det((\psi'_+)^T \psi'_+)| d^n z ds \\ &= \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d\sigma(y) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Doing this analogously for ϕ_- and defining an respective ψ_- we get in total that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(x)} u(y) d^n y &= \int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y + \int_{B_r(0) \cap \{y_n < 0\}} u(x+y) d^n y \\ &= \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(0) \cap \{y_n > 0\}} u(x+y) d\sigma(y) ds + \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(0) \cap \{y_n < 0\}} u(x+y) d\sigma(y) ds \\ &= \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(0)} u(x+y) d\sigma(y) ds \\ &= \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) ds \end{aligned}$$

although we used in the last step a translation on manifolds, which has Jacobian Id .

Now we can finally show that due to the fact that $S(\cdot) \equiv u(x)$ is constant we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(x)} u(y) d^n y &= \frac{n}{r^n n \omega_n} \int_0^r \frac{s^{n-1}}{s^{n-1}} \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) ds \\ &= \frac{n}{r^n} \int_0^r s^{n-1} \frac{1}{s^{n-1} n \omega_n} \int_{\partial B_s^{n-1}(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) ds \\ &= \frac{n}{r^n} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S(s) ds = u(x) \frac{n}{r^n} \left[\frac{1}{n} s^n\right]_0^r = u(x). \end{aligned}$$

Now we show the other direction:

Let $\overline{B_r(x)} \subset \Omega$ for every $r > 0$ be compact and assume the mean value property holds, i.e.

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_n r^n} \int_{B_r(x)} u(y) d^n y = \frac{1}{\omega_n r^n} \int_{B_r(x)} u(y) d^n y \stackrel{\text{above}}{=} \frac{n}{r^n} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S_x(s) ds.$$

Because u is constant in r it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \frac{d}{dr} \frac{n}{r^n} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S_x(s) ds \\
&= -\frac{n^2}{r^{n+1}} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S_x(s) ds + \frac{n}{r^n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S_x(s) ds \\
&\stackrel{???}{=} -\frac{n^2}{r^{n+1}} \int_0^r s^{n-1} S_x(s) ds + \frac{n}{r^n} r^{n-1} S_x(r) \\
&= -\frac{n^2}{r^{n+1}} \frac{1}{n} r^n S_x(r) + \frac{n}{r} S_x(r) = -\frac{n}{r^n} S_x(r) + \frac{n}{r} S_x(r) \\
&\iff u(x) = S_x(r).
\end{aligned}$$

The above shows that the mean on $\partial B_r(x)$ is equal to $u(x)$. We have shown that $S'(r)$ is the mean of Δu on $B_r(x)$ and because $S(\cdot)$ is constant it follows

$$S'(r) = 0 \iff \int_{B_r(x)} \Delta u d^n y = 0.$$

Finally, $S(\cdot)$ is twice differentiable, because $u \in C^2(\Omega)$.

We now want to show that $\Delta u \equiv 0$. For that, assume $\exists x \in \Omega$ such that $\Delta u(x) \neq 0$. Because Δu is continuous

$$\forall \xi > 0 \exists y \in B_\epsilon(x) : |\Delta u(y) - \Delta u(x)| < \xi.$$

Choose $\xi := \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2}$. It follows

$$|\Delta u(y) - \Delta u(x)| < \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2}.$$

- Case 1: $\Delta u(x) > 0$

$$\Delta u(y) \geq \Delta u(x) - |\Delta u(y) - \Delta u(x)| > \Delta u(x) - \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2} = \frac{\Delta u(x)}{2} > 0.$$

- Case 2: $\Delta u(x) < 0$

$$\Delta u(y) = \Delta u(x) - |\Delta u(y) - \Delta u(x)| < \Delta u(x) + |\Delta u(y) - \Delta u(x)| \leq \Delta u(x) + \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2} = \frac{\Delta u(x)}{2} < 0.$$

In total it was shown that $\frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2} > 0$ and

$$\forall y \in B_\epsilon(x) : |\Delta u(y)| \geq \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2}.$$

Ultimately this leads to

$$\left| \int_{B_r(x)} \Delta u(y) d^n y \right| \geq \frac{|\Delta u(x)|}{2} \int_{B_r(x)} d^n y > 0,$$

which is a contradiction. Thus it follows that $\Delta u \equiv 0$.

(*)

$$D\phi_+(z, x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & \\ \vdots & \ddots & & & \vdots \\ \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} & \cdots & \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} & \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} & \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Id & & & 0 \\ \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} & \cdots & \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} & \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \det(D\phi_+(z, x)) &= \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ & Id & \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + \frac{2|z|}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} \det \begin{pmatrix} Id & \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}} \det(Id) \\ &= \frac{s}{\sqrt{s^2-|z|^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary 2.2

Let u be a smooth harmonic function on an open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $B_r(x)$ with closure in Ω . Then $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^n$ it holds that

$$|\partial^\alpha u(x)| \leq C(n, |\alpha|) r^{-|\alpha|} \|u\|_{L^\infty(\overline{B_r(x)})}, \quad C(n, |\alpha|) = 2^{|\alpha|(1+|\alpha|)} n^{|\alpha|}.$$

Proof. First, its clear that all partial derivatives of a harmonic function are harmonic again. We show the assertion via induction but only consider the induction start:

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_i \partial^\alpha u(x)| &\stackrel{\text{meanvalue}}{=} \left| \frac{2^n}{\omega_n r^n} \int_{B_{r/2}(x)} \partial_i \partial^\alpha u d^n x \right| \\ &\stackrel{\text{Div.Thm.}}{=} \left| \frac{2^n}{\omega_n r^n} \int_{\partial B_{r/2}(x)} \partial^\alpha u N d\sigma \right| \\ &\leq \left| \frac{2^n}{\omega_n r^n} \right| \|\partial^\alpha u\|_{L^\infty(\partial B_{r/2}(x))} \underbrace{\left| \int_{\partial B_{r/2}(x)} \underbrace{1_{n-1}}_{=1} N d\sigma \right|}_{=n\omega_n(r/2)^{n-1}} \\ &= \|\partial^\alpha u\|_{L^\infty(\partial B_{r/2}(x))} \frac{2n}{r}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

This shows the assertion for $|\alpha| = 1$, i.e. the induction start is $C(n, 1) = 2n$.

□

Theorem 2.3: Liouville's

On \mathbb{R}^n a bounded harmonic function is constant.

Proof. The previous corollary has shown that a smooth (???) harmonic function is bounded in the following way

$$|\partial^\alpha u(x)| \leq C(n, |\alpha|) r^{-|\alpha|} \|u\|_{L^\infty(\overline{B_r(x)})}.$$

This goes to zero as $r \rightarrow \infty$, i.e. all partial derivatives of order α disappear. Thus u is constant.

□

We now want to transfer the mean value property to distributions. Let $u \in C^2(\Omega)$ be harmonic, then $\forall B_r(x) \subset \Omega$ and $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ it holds

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_r(x)} u(y) \frac{\psi(|y-x|)}{n|y-x|^{n-1}\omega_n} d^n y &= \int_0^r \int_{\partial B_s(x)} u(y) \frac{\psi(|y-x|)}{n|y-x|^{n-1}\omega_n} d\sigma(y) ds \\ &= \int_0^r \frac{\psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_s(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) ds = \int_0^r \psi(s)u(x) ds = u(x) \int_0^r \psi(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2.4: Weak Mean Value Property

Let $U \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be a harmonic distribution on an open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. For each ball $B_r(x) \subset \Omega$ and each $\psi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ with $\int_0^r \psi d\mu = 0$ the distribution U vanishes on the following test function $f \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ with

$$y \mapsto f(y) := \frac{\psi(|y-x|)}{n|y-x|^{n-1}\omega_n}, \quad \text{supp } f \subset B_r(x) \subset \Omega,$$

i.e. $U_f = 0$.

Proof. Due to the fact that U is harmonic it holds that

$$0 = (\Delta U)_g = U_{\Delta g} = U_f,$$

if we show that $\exists g \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ with $\Delta g = f$.

Because by assumption ψ is integrable ($\int_\Omega \psi d\mu = \int_0^r \psi d\mu = 0$) there exists a $\Psi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ such that $\Psi' = \psi$. Now define

$$g(y) := v(|y-x|), \quad v(t) := \int_r^t \frac{\Psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} ds.$$

This function has compact support in $B_r(x) \subset \Omega$, because of the following. As we defined $\Psi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ it holds that $\Psi(s) = 0$ for all $s \geq r$ and $\exists \epsilon > 0$ such that $\Psi(s) = 0$ for all $s \leq \epsilon$. Finally, we get that for $y \neq x$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_y g(y) &= \nabla_y \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} |y-x| v'(y) \right) = \nabla_y \cdot \frac{y-x}{|y-x|} v'(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{|y-x|} v'(y) + v''(y) \frac{y_i - x_i}{|y-x|} \right) \\ &= \frac{n-1}{|y-x|} v'(y) + v''(y) \\ &= \frac{n-1}{|y-x|} v'(y) + \frac{\psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} + \frac{\Psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} \frac{1-n}{|y-x|} \\ &= \frac{n-1}{|y-x|} v'(y) + \frac{\psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} - \frac{\Psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} \frac{n-1}{|y-x|} \\ &= \frac{\psi(s)}{ns^{n-1}\omega_n} = f(y). \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 2.5

On an open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for each harmonic distribution $U \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ there exists $u \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ harmonic such that $H = F_u$.

Proof. First, we shall find a u as it was proposed in the lemma. For every $x \in \Omega$ choose a ball $B_r(x) \subset \Omega$ and a test function $\phi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ with $\int_0^r \phi(s) ds = 1$. Then we define

$$u(x) := u(g_x), \quad g_x(y) := \frac{\phi(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}.$$

Now we need to show that u is well defined, i.e. independent of the choice of r and ϕ . For that define

$$g_{x,1}(y) := \frac{\phi_1(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}, \quad g_{x,2}(y) := \frac{\phi_2(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n},$$

for $\phi_1 \in C_0^\infty((0, r_1))$ and $\phi_2 \in C_0^\infty((0, r_2))$. We want to show that $U(g_{x,1}) = U(g_{x,2})$ which is equivalent by linearity to $U(g_{x,1} - g_{x,2}) = 0$. For ease of notation define

$$f(y) := \frac{\phi_1(|y - x|) - \phi_2(|x - y|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}.$$

Thus we need to show that $U(f) = 0$, where $\phi := \phi_1 - \phi_2$. We do this by showing that the conditions from the mean value theorem are satisfied. It holds that

$$\int_0^{\max r_1, r_2} \phi ds = \int_0^{r_1} \phi ds - \int_0^{r_2} \phi_2 ds = 1 - 1 = 0.$$

Thus u is independent from ϕ and r . Additionally it holds that

$$g_x(y) = g_0(y - x) = (T_x g_0)(y)$$

which leads to

$$u(x) = U(g_x) = U(T_x g_0) = U(t_x P g_0) = (g_0 * U)(x)$$

due to the fact that $g_0(\cdot)$ is symmetric, i.e. $g_0 = P g_0$. Thus because we can write any distribution as a function

$$g * F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad x \mapsto F(T_x P g)$$

that is in C^∞ it follows that u is smooth.

Next, we show that the distribution $\tilde{U} = F_u$ satisfies the weak Mean value property. With the above $\tilde{U} = F_u = g_0 * U$???

Note that the function that we characterized in the mean value property theorem satisfies the following three properties

1. It only depends on the distance $|y - x|$ to the center $x \in \Omega$
2. $\text{supp } f \subset B_x(r)$
3. $U(f) = 0$

Clearly the first property is equivalent to f is invariant under all rotations around the center. Remember that we have shown that for two functions f and g that are rotationally symmetric around a and b respectively (i.e. for any orthonormal transformation $O \in O(n, \mathbb{R})$ it holds $f(a + b) = f(a + O b)$) follows

$$(f * g)(a + b + x) = (f * g)(a + b + O x),$$

i.e. rotationally symmetric wrt. $a + b$. Thus, if we take $g_0 * f$ it is rotationally symmetric around the same center as f , because g_0 is rotationally symmetric around 0.

Since $\phi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ the function

$$f(y) = \frac{\phi(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}$$

vanishes on for all $y \in B_\epsilon^n(\epsilon)$, if we choose $\epsilon > 0$ small enough.

Note that we used different test functions for f and g_0 . For the first we have $\psi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ with $\int \psi d\mu = 0$ and for the second we have $\phi \in C_0^\infty((0, r))$ with $\int \phi d\mu = 1$. If g_0 has its support on $B_\xi(0)$ with $\xi < \epsilon$ then $\text{supp } B_\xi(x)$. This and the fact that $\int_\Omega \phi(x)\psi(y - x)d\mu = 0$ gives us all the conditions we need to use the weak mean value property in order for the following calculation

$$\tilde{U}(f) = (g_0 * U)(f) = U(f * Pg_0) = U(f * g_0) = 0.$$

Thus, \tilde{U} satisfies the weak mean value property.

The next step is to show that u is harmonic.

Let $\phi_\epsilon \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be a mollifier. Because $B_r(x)$ has compact closure in $\Omega \exists R > r$ such that $B_R(x) \subset \Omega$. Further, for any $0 < r_1 < r_2 < R$ and $\epsilon > 0$ small enough the function

$$\varphi(t) := \phi_\epsilon(t - r_1) - \phi_\epsilon(t - r_2),$$

has compact support in $(0, R)$ and a vanishing integral

$$\int \varphi(t)d\mu = \int \phi_\epsilon(t - r_1)d\mu - \int \phi_\epsilon(t - r_2)d\mu = 1 - 1 = 0.$$

We define

$$f_x^\epsilon(y) := \frac{\varphi(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}, \quad y \in B_\epsilon(x).$$

For sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$ f_x^ϵ has compact support in Ω and is symmetric wrt. x . Since satisfies all the conditions from the weak mean value theorem, as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, it follows that with

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leftarrow \tilde{U}(f_x^\epsilon) = \int_\Omega u(y)f_x^\epsilon(y)dy = \int_\Omega u(y)\frac{\varphi(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}dy \\ &= \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{B_\epsilon(x)} u(y)\frac{\varphi(|y - x|)}{|y - x|^{n-1}}dy = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_0^\epsilon \int_{\partial B_r(x)} u(y)\frac{\varphi(|y - x|)}{|y - x|^{n-1}}d\sigma(y)dr \\ &= \int_0^\epsilon \varphi(r)\frac{1}{nr^{n-1}\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(x)} u(y)d\sigma(y)dr \\ &= \int_0^\epsilon \varphi(r)S_x(r)dr \\ &= \int_0^\epsilon \phi_\epsilon(r - r_1)S_x(r)dr - \int_0^\epsilon \phi_\epsilon(r - r_2)S_x(r)dr \\ &\rightarrow S_x(r_1) - S_x(r_2), \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

we get $0 = S_x(r_1) - S_x(r_2)$. In the limit we have

$$S_x(r_1) = S_x(r_2) \rightarrow u(x), t \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus u satisfies the mean value property and is thus equivalently harmonic. Finally, we show that $U = \tilde{U}$. For that define

$$\eta(t) := \phi_{\epsilon/3}(t - \frac{2}{3}\epsilon), \quad \text{has support } (\epsilon/3, \epsilon)$$

and $\int \eta d\mu = 1$. Define the mollifier

$$f_x^{\eta, \epsilon}(y) := \frac{\eta(|y - x|)}{n|y - x|^{n-1}\omega_n}.$$

Then $(f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}(\cdot))_{\epsilon \geq 0}$ is a sequence of smooth mollifiers. It then finally follows with $W := \tilde{U} - U$ that for any test function $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{U}(\psi) &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \tilde{U}(\psi * f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} u(y)(\psi(y) * f_0^{\eta, \epsilon})(y) dy \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} u(y) \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}(y - x) dx dy \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) \int_{\Omega} u(y) f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}(y - x) dy dx \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) \tilde{U}(f_x^{\eta, \epsilon}) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) u(x) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) U(g_x) dx \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) U(f_x^{\eta, \epsilon}) dx \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) U(f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}(\cdot - x)) dx \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \psi * U(f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}) \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} U(\psi * f_0^{\eta, \epsilon}) = U(\psi) \end{aligned}$$

Although we used that for a mollifier $(\lambda_\epsilon)_{\epsilon \geq 0}$ it holds

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \psi * \lambda_\epsilon = \psi, \quad \psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

□

Theorem 2.6: Harnack

Let Ω' be an open path-connected domain, i.e.

$$\forall x, y \in \Omega' \exists \gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \Omega' \text{ continuous: } \gamma(0) = x \text{ and } \gamma(1) = y,$$

with compact closure in the open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then there exists $C(\Omega, \Omega') > 0$ such that any non-negative harmonic function u on Ω satisfies

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega'} u(x) \leq C \inf_{x \in \Omega'} u(x)$$

and

$$\forall x, y \in \Omega' : \frac{1}{C} u(y) \leq u(x) \leq C u(y).$$

Proof. Let Ω' be an open domain that is path connected and has compact closure in the open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Define

$$g(x) := \inf_{y \in \partial\Omega} \|y - x\|$$

Since $\bar{\Omega}'$ is compact in Ω it is disjoint from $\partial\Omega$ which implies that $g > 0$. Let

$$r := \frac{1}{2} \min_{x \in \bar{\Omega}'} g(x).$$

By construction it holds that for any $x \in \bar{\Omega}'$ we have $B_{2r}(x) \subset \Omega$. Next, let $x, y \in \Omega'$ be arbitrary with $\|x - y\| < r$. It follows that for any $z \in B_r(y)$ it holds

$$\|z - x\| \leq \|z - y\| + \|y - x\| < 2r.$$

Thus $B_r(y) \subset B_{2r}(x)$. Since u is harmonic and non-negative it follows

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{2^n r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_{2r}(x)} u d\mu \geq \frac{2^{-n}}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(y)} u d\mu = 2^{-n} u(y)$$

holds for all $x, y \in \Omega'$ with $\|x - y\| < r$.

As we have required $\bar{\Omega}'$ to be compact, i.e. meaning that there exists a cover of finite many balls B_1, \dots, B_N with radii $\frac{r}{2}$ with

$$\forall k = 1, \dots, N-1 : B_{k+1} \cap B_k \neq \emptyset.$$

Let $B_k := B_{r/2}(x_k)$, then $\forall z_k \in B_{k+1} \cap B_k$ holds

$$\|x_k - z_k\| + \|z_k - x_{k+1}\| < \frac{r}{2} + \frac{r}{2} = r,$$

which implies that $B_r(x_{k+1}) \subset B_{2r}(x_k)$. Thus, for all $k = 1, \dots, N-1$:

$$u(x_k) = \frac{1}{2^n r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_{2r}(x_k)} u d\mu \geq \frac{2^{-n}}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(x_{k+1})} u d\mu = 2^{-n} u(x_{k+1})$$

which is equivalent to $2^n u(x_k) \geq u(x_{k+1})$. Doing this N times yields

$$u(x_N) \leq \dots \leq 2^{n(N-1)} u(x_1).$$

Now choose $x, y \in \Omega'$ arbitrary and the cover in such a way that $x \in B_{r/2}(x_1)$ and $y \in B_{r/2}(x_N)$. Because Ω' is path connected there exist a sequence of open balls B_{k_1}, \dots, B_{k_n} that connect these points. For ease of notation let $k_1 = 1$ and $k_n := N$. Then it follows that

$$\|x - x_1\| < \frac{r}{2} < r \implies B_{r/2}(x_1) \subset B_r(x) \implies 2^n u(x) \geq u(x_1).$$

and

$$\|y - x_N\| < \frac{r}{2} < r \implies B_{r/2}(y) \subset B_r(x_N) \implies 2^n u(x_N) \geq u(y)$$

which finally leads to

$$u(y) \leq 2^n u(x_N) \leq \dots \leq 2^{nN} u(x_1) \leq 2^{n(N+1)} u(x).$$

As the above holds for arbitrary $x, y \in \Omega'$ and its an open set the following immediatly follows

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega'} u(x) \leq 2^{n(N+1)} \inf_{x \in \Omega'} u(x).$$

□

Lemma 2.7: Harnack's Principle

On an open and path connected domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ a monotone sequence of harmonic functions $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges uniformly on all compact subsets $\Omega' \subset \Omega$, i.e.

$$\exists u \forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \geq N, x \in \Omega' : |u_n(x) - u(x)| < \epsilon,$$

if and only if

$$\exists x \in \Omega : (|u_n(x)|)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ is bounded.}$$

Proof. " \Rightarrow ":

Let $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be uniformly convergent on every compact subset $\Omega' \subset \Omega$. Then with analysis it follows $(u_n(x))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges for all $x \in \Omega$. Pointwise convergence implies boundedness.

" \Leftarrow ":

Let $(|u_n(x)|)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be bounded for a $x \in \Omega$. By assumption it is monotone. Boundedness and monotonicity imply pointwise convergence, i.e. $(u_n(x))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges. To show uniform convergence on Ω' , we need to show that $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is uniformly a Cauchy sequence on Ω' . Because Ω is a domain

$$\exists \Omega'' : \Omega' \subset \Omega'' \subset \Omega, \text{ with } x \in \Omega''.$$

Define $v_{n,m}(x) := u_n(x) - u_m(x)$, which is harmonic and non negative, because $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is non-negative. Thus Harnack's inequality implies that

$$\sup_{y \in \Omega''} v_{n,m}(y) \leq C \inf_{y \in \Omega''} v_{n,m}(y).$$

which implies for all $y \in \Omega''$:

$$v_{n,m}(y) \leq C \inf_{y \in \Omega''} v_{n,m}(y).$$

Due to the fact that $x \in \Omega''$ it follows also that for all $y \in \Omega''$:

$$v_{n,m}(y) \leq C v_{n,m}(x).$$

Finally, due to $\Omega' \subset \Omega''$ it follows

$$\sup_{y \in \Omega'} v_{n,m}(y) \leq C v_{n,m}(x).$$

Now due to the fact that $(u_n(x))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a convergent sequence, it is a cauchy sequence, i.e.

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \geq m \geq N : \quad u_n(x) - u_m(x) = v_{n,m}(x) < \frac{\epsilon}{C}.$$

Thus

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \geq m \geq N : \quad \sup_{y \in \Omega'} v_{n,m}(y) \leq C v_{n,m}(x) < \epsilon,$$

which is the uniform cauchy criterion on Ω' . □

3 Maximum Principle

Theorem 3.1: Strong Maximum Principle

Let u be harmonic on a path-connected open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and taking its maximum. Then u is constant.

Proof. Let u be a harmonic function that takes its maximum at $x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ on an open path connected domain. The MVP implies

$$\forall y \in B_r(x) \subset \Omega : \quad \frac{1}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(x)} |u(x) - u(y)| d^n y \stackrel{Max.}{=} \frac{1}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(x)} u(x) - u(y) d^n y \stackrel{MVP}{=} 0.$$

Hence u is constant on $B_r(x)$, i.e. $\forall y \in B_r(x) : \max_{z \in \Omega} u(z) = u(y) =: M$.

Define $\{z \in \Omega \mid u(z) = M\}$. We have shown in the above that $A \neq \emptyset$ because $B_r(x) \subset A$. We will show that A is closed and open and non-empty. This implies due to (*) that $A = \Omega$.

Closed: Because the preimage of closed sets for continuous functions is again closed it follows that $u^{-1}(\{M\}) = A$ is closed.

Open: Let $a \in A$ be arbitrary. Since Ω is open there exists $r > 0$ such that $B_r(a) \subset \Omega$. Due to the fact that $a \in A$ it follows that $u(a) = M$ is the global maximum. With the arguments above it follows that

$$\forall y \in B_r(a) \subset \Omega : \quad \frac{1}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(a)} |u(a) - u(y)| d^n y \stackrel{Max.}{=} \frac{1}{r^n \omega_n} \int_{B_r(a)} u(a) - u(y) d^n y \stackrel{MVP}{=} 0.$$

Hence u is constant on $B_r(a)$. As $a \in A$ was arbitrary it follows that A is open.

All the above arguments imply that u is constant on Ω where it takes its maximum.

(*): Ω is path connected implies Ω is connected, which is defined as

$$\nexists B, C \neq \emptyset \text{ open with } B \cap C = \emptyset \text{ and } \Omega = B \cup C.$$

Since A is closed it follows that A^C is closed. Because $\Omega = A \cup A^C$ and Ω is connected one of the sets has to be empty. As $A \neq \emptyset$ it follows $A^C = \emptyset$. □

Theorem 3.2: Weak Maximum Principle

Let u be harmonic on a bounded open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ that extends continuously to $\partial\Omega$. Then maximum of u is then taken on $\partial\Omega$.

Proof. Because Ω is bounded it follows that $\bar{\Omega} = \Omega \cup \partial\Omega$ is closed and bounded, which implies with Heine Borel that $\bar{\Omega}$ is compact. A continuous function on a compact set attains its maximum value M at some point $x \in \bar{\Omega}$. There are now two cases:

- Case 1: If $x \in \partial\Omega$ the assertion is shown.
- Case 2: If $x \in \Omega$ the strong Maximum Principle can be applied and yields that $\forall z \in \Omega : u(z) = M$. Because U extends continuously to $\partial\Omega$ it follows that also $\forall y \in \partial\Omega : u(y) = M$.

In both cases the maximum is attained on $\partial\Omega$. □

Since $-u$ is again harmonic if u is, the strong and weak minimum principle immediately follows. We will now generalise the Maximum principle.

Theorem 3.3

Let L be an elliptic differential operator on a bounded open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ with coefficients $a_{i,j}, b_i$ extending continuously and elliptically to $\partial\Omega$. Then every twice differentiable solution $u \in C^2$ of $Lu \geq 0$ that extends continuously to $\partial\Omega$ takes its maximum on $\partial\Omega$.

Proof. Because the coefficients are continuous the function $g : (x, k) \mapsto \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}(x)k_i k_j$ is continuous on the compact set $\bar{\Omega} \times S^{n-1} \subset \bar{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R}^n$. A continuous function attains its minimum on compact sets. Thus g attains its minimum $\lambda > 0$, as L is elliptic, this minimum is positive. This implies uniform ellipticity. Define $v(x) := e^{x_1 \alpha}$, $\alpha > 0$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, then with uniform ellipticity we get that

$$Lv = \alpha(\alpha a_{11}(x) + b_1(x))v(x) \geq \alpha(\alpha\lambda + b_1(x))v > 0,$$

for $\alpha > 0$ large enough, because b_i are bounded and continuous on $\bar{\Omega}$ and $\lambda > 0$. With linearity it follows for all $\epsilon > 0$ that

$$L(u + \epsilon v) = \underbrace{Lu}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{\epsilon Lv}_{> 0} > 0, \text{ on } \Omega \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

To show: $w_\epsilon := u + \epsilon v$ cannot have an interior maximum.

Assume w_ϵ attains its maximum at some $x \in \Omega$. Since $w_\epsilon \in C^2$ it clearly holds that

- $\nabla w_\epsilon(x_0) = 0$
- The Hessian $Hw_\epsilon(x_0)$ is negative semi-definite, i.e. all eigenvalues μ_1, \dots, μ_n are non-positive.

Then there exists $B \in O(n)$ orthogonal such that $HW_\epsilon(x_0) = B^T \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \mu_n \end{pmatrix} B$. Using this we can now

reformulate the differential operator.

$$\begin{aligned}
Lw_\epsilon(x_0) &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}(x_0) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} w_\epsilon(x_0) + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i(x_0) \cdot 0 \\
&= \text{trace}(A(x_0)Hw_\epsilon(x_0)) = \text{trace}(A(x_0)B^T \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \mu_n \end{pmatrix} B) \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}(x_0) \sum_{k=1}^n \mu_k b_{ki} b_{kj} \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n \underbrace{\mu_k}_{\leq 0} \underbrace{\sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}(x_0) b_{ki} b_{kj}}_{\geq \lambda > 0} \leq 0
\end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. Thus Lw_ϵ attains its maximum on $\partial\Omega$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} u(x) + \epsilon \inf_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} v(x) &\leq \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} (u(x) + \epsilon v(x)) \stackrel{\text{above}}{=} \max_{x \in \partial\Omega} (u(x) + \epsilon v(x)) \leq \max_{x \in \partial\Omega} u(x) + \epsilon \max_{x \in \partial\Omega} v(x) \\
&\iff \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} u(x) \leq \max_{x \in \partial\Omega} u(x) + \epsilon \underbrace{(\max_{x \in \partial\Omega} v(x) - \inf_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} v(x))}_{=const.}
\end{aligned}$$

Due to the fact that $\epsilon > 0$ was chosen arbitrary it follows that

$$\sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} u(x) = \max_{x \in \partial\Omega} u(x).$$

□

With the same proof idea one can show that $Lu \leq 0$ implies that u takes its minima on the boundary. Note that if $Lu = 0$ holds then both minima and maxima are on the boundary.

4 Green's Function

Now we want to find conditions that ensure the existence and uniqueness of harmonic functions on path-connected, open and bounded domains $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. We will introduce boundary value problems, that means the harmonic function or some of its derivatives extend continuously to the boundary and coincide with some function on $\partial\Omega$.

Definition 4.1

We call u m -times differentiable on $\bar{\Omega}$ if it is m -times continuously differentiable on Ω and all partial derivatives of order of at most m extend continuously to $\partial\Omega$.

Lemma 4.2: Greens First Formula

Let the divergence theorem hold true on an open and bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then for two $u, v \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$ it holds

$$\int_{\Omega} v(y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\Omega} \nabla v(y) \nabla u(y) d^n y = \int_{\Omega} (v(y) \nabla u(y))' d^n y = \int_{\partial\Omega} v(z) \nabla u(z) \cdot N d\sigma(z).$$

If we subtract the above by itself, while exchanging the role of u and v we get the second Formula.

Lemma 4.3: Greens Second Formula

Let the divergence theorem hold true on an open and bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then for two $u, v \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$ it holds

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} v(y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\Omega} \nabla v(y) \nabla u(y) d^n y - \int_{\Omega} \Delta v(y) u(y) d^n y - \int_{\Omega} \nabla v(y) \nabla u(y) d^n y \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} v(z) \nabla(z) N d\sigma(z) - \int_{\partial\Omega} u(z) \nabla v(z) N d\sigma(z) \\ &\iff \int_{\Omega} v(y) \Delta u(y) - \Delta v(y) u(y) d^n y = \int_{\partial\Omega} (v(z) \nabla(z) - u(z) \nabla v(z)) N d\sigma(z) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.4: Greens Representation Theorem

Let the divergence theorem hold true on an open and bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then for two $u, v \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$ it holds

$$u(x) = - \int_{\Omega} \Phi(x-y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y) - u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y)) N d\sigma(y)$$

Proof. With the second Greens Identity it holds

$$\int_{\Omega \setminus B_{\epsilon}(x)} u(y) \Delta \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \Delta u(y) d^n y = \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B_{\epsilon}(x))} (u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y)) N d\sigma(y).$$

Because $\Phi(x - \cdot)$ was constructed to be the solution of $-\Delta u = 0$ for $x \neq y$ it follows that the above is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & - \int_{\Omega \setminus B_{\epsilon}(x)} \Phi(x-y) \Delta u(y) d^n y = \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B_{\epsilon}(x))} (u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y)) N d\sigma(y) \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} (u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y)) N d\sigma(y) + \underbrace{\int_{\partial B_{\epsilon}(x)} (u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y)) N d\sigma(y)}_{=: K_{\epsilon}}. \end{aligned}$$

Due to construction it follows $\Phi(x-y) \in \mathcal{O}(|x-y|^{2-n})$, $y \rightarrow x$, $\nabla u \cdot N$ is bounded and $\int_{\partial B_{\epsilon}(x)} d\sigma(y) \in \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{n-1})$ which yields

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial B_{\epsilon}(x)} \underbrace{\Phi(x-y) \nabla(y) N}_{\leq \text{const.}} d\sigma(y) \leq \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon^{2-n} \text{const.} \int_{\partial B_{\epsilon}(x)} d\sigma(y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon = 0.$$

Using this and the fact that $\nabla\Phi(y) = -\frac{1}{n\omega_n} \frac{y}{|y|^n}$ and $N = -\frac{x-y}{|x-y|}$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} K_\epsilon &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) N d\sigma(y) \\
&= - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} u(y) \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \frac{x-y}{|x-y|^n} N d\sigma(y) \\
&= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \frac{\epsilon}{|\epsilon|^n} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} u(y) \frac{x-y}{|x-y|} d\sigma(y) \\
&= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \frac{\epsilon^2}{|\epsilon|^{n+1}} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) \\
&= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \frac{1}{|\epsilon|^{n-1}} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} u(y) d\sigma(y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} S_x(\epsilon) = u(x).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus in total we have

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x) &= - \int_{\Omega} \Phi(x-y) \Delta u(y) d^n y - \int_{\partial\Omega} (u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y) - \Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y)) N d\sigma(y) \\
&\iff u(x) = - \int_{\Omega} \Phi(x-y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\Phi(x-y) \nabla u(y) - u(y) \nabla_y \Phi(x-y)) N d\sigma(y)
\end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 4.5: Greens Function

A function

$$G_\Omega : \{(x, y) \in \Omega \times \Omega \mid x \neq y\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

is called Greens function on the open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ if the following are satisfied

- $\forall x \in \Omega$ the function $y \mapsto G_\Omega(x, y) - \Phi(x-y)$ is harmonic on Ω
- $\forall x \in \Omega$ the function $y \mapsto G_\Omega(x, y)$ extends continuously to $\partial\Omega$ and vanishes on $\partial\Omega$.

Note that if we use the Greens Representation theorem, the second Greens formula and define $v(y) :=$

$G_\Omega(x, y) - \Phi(x - y)$ (which is by definition a harmonic function) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x) &= - \int_{\Omega} \Phi(x - y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} (\Phi(x - z) \nabla u(z) - u(z) \nabla_z \Phi(x - z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
&= - \int_{\Omega} (G_\Omega(x, y) - v(y)) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} ((G_\Omega(x, z) - v(z)) \nabla u(z) - u(z) \nabla_z (G_\Omega(x, z) - v(z))) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
&= - \int_{\Omega} \underbrace{\Delta v(y) u(y)}_{=0, v \text{ harmonic}} - v(y) \Delta u(y) d^n y - \int_{\partial\Omega} (u(z) \nabla v(z) - \nabla u(z) v(z)) N d\sigma(z) \\
&\quad - \int_{\Omega} G_\Omega(x, y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} (G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla u(z) - u(z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
&\stackrel{2. \text{Greens}}{=} 0 - \int_{\Omega} G_\Omega(x, y) \Delta u(y) d^n y + \int_{\partial\Omega} (G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla u(z) - u(z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
&\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} - \int_{\Omega} G_\Omega(x, y) \Delta u(y) d^n y - \int_{\partial\Omega} u(z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
&\stackrel{\text{Dirichlet}}{=} \int_{\Omega} G_\Omega(x, y) f(y) d^n y - \int_{\partial\Omega} g(z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z) \cdot N d\sigma(z).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus the solution of the Dirichlet problem satisfies for $f : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ sufficiently regular

$$u(x) = \int_{\Omega} G_\Omega(x, y) f(y) d^n y - \int_{\partial\Omega} g(z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z) \cdot N d\sigma(z).$$

Remark 4.1

The homogeneous Dirichlet problem uniquely solves the inhomogenous Dirichlet problem up to translation: Let u_1 be the solution of the homogenous Dirichlet problem and u of the???

The Dirichlet Problem reduces to the search of the Greens function.???

For $x \in \Omega$ the function $y \mapsto G_\Omega(x, y) - \Phi(x - y)$ is harmonic on Ω and on $\partial\Omega$ is equal to $-\Phi(x - y)$. This function is the solution of the Dirichlet Problem $f = 0$ on Ω and $g(x) = -\Phi(x - y)$ on $\partial\Omega$.

Theorem 4.6: Symmetry

If there exists a Greens function G_Ω for the domain Ω then

$$\forall x \neq y : \quad G_\Omega(x, y) = G_\Omega(y, x).$$

Proof. For $x \neq y \in \Omega$ and $\epsilon > 0$ sufficiently small such that the balls $B_\epsilon(x), B_\epsilon(y) \subset \Omega$ are disjoint, the Greens function G_Ω is by definition harmonic on $\Omega_\epsilon := \Omega \setminus (B_\epsilon(x) \cup B_\epsilon(y))$. Note that in the definition of Ω_ϵ the normal vector for the balls $\partial B_\epsilon(x)$ and $\partial B_\epsilon(y)$ respectively, is inward facing. To apply the Greens second Identity, we need an outward facing vector. This is why we always need to multiply by (-1) when we apply

it in the following! Using Greens second Identity we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\Omega_\epsilon} G_\Omega(x, z) \Delta G_\Omega(y, z) - G_\Omega(y, z) \Delta G_\Omega(x, z) d^n z = \int_{\partial\Omega_\epsilon} (G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z) - G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
& \iff 0 = \int_{\partial\Omega_\epsilon} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
& \iff 0 = \int_{\partial\Omega \cup \partial B_\epsilon(x) \cup B_\epsilon(y)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
& \stackrel{(*)}{\iff} 0 = \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x) \cup B_\epsilon(y)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
& \iff - \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(y)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) = \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z)
\end{aligned}$$

Although we used in (*) that by definition the Greens function vanishes on $\partial\Omega$. Applying Greens second formula again yields

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(x)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla_z G_\Omega(y, z)) N d\sigma(z) \\
& = - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(x)} G_\Omega(y, z) \Delta_z G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \Delta_z G_\Omega(y, z) d^n z \\
& = - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(x)} G_\Omega(y, z) \Delta_z G_\Omega(x, z) d^n z = - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(x)} G_\Omega(y, z) (-\delta(x - z)) d^n z = G_\Omega(y, x)
\end{aligned}$$

and in a similiar fashion

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial B_\epsilon(y)} (G_\Omega(y, z) \nabla G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \nabla G_\Omega(y, z)) \cdot N d\sigma(z) \\
& = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(y)} G_\Omega(y, z) \Delta G_\Omega(x, z) - G_\Omega(x, z) \Delta G_\Omega(y, z) d^n z \\
& = - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(y)} G_\Omega(x, z) \Delta G_\Omega(y, z) d^n z \\
& = - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_\epsilon(y)} G_\Omega(x, z) (-\delta(y - z)) d^n z = G_\Omega(x, y)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus the assertion is shown. \square

We will now calculate Greens functions for $B_\epsilon(x) = \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. For now only consider the unit ball. Define the inversion in the unit sphere as

$$\tilde{x} : B_1(0) \rightarrow \partial B_1(0), x \mapsto \tilde{x}(x) := \frac{x}{|x|^2}.$$

Later it will help us to solve the Dirichlet problem for $f = 0$ and $g(x) = \Phi(x - y)$???.

Lemma 4.7: Greens function on the unit Ball

The Greens function on the unit Ball is given by

$$G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) = \Phi(x - y) - \Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) = \begin{cases} \Phi(x - y) - |x|^{2-n} \Phi(\tilde{x}(x) - y), & n > 2 \\ \Phi(x - y) - \Phi(\tilde{x}(x) - y) - \Phi(x), & n = 2 \end{cases}$$

Proof. We want to show that $v(y) := G_\Omega(x, y) - \Phi(x - y)$ is harmonic. Define $v(y) := -\Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y))$. Now the conditions of the Green function need to be shown under that definition. We first show that $y \mapsto G_{B_1(0)}(x, y)$ vanishes on the boundary, i.e. for $y \in \partial B_1(0)$:

$$\begin{aligned} |x|^2 |\tilde{x}(x) - y|^2 &= |x|^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{x_i}{|x|^2} - y_i \right)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{x_i}{|x|^2} - 2x_i y_i + y_i^2 |x|^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{|x|^2}{|x|^2} - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i + \underbrace{|y|^2}_{=1} |x|^2 = 1 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i + |x|^2 \\ &= |y|^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i + |x|^2 = |x - y|^2 \\ &\iff |x| |\tilde{x}(x) - y| = |x - y| \end{aligned}$$

Which implies that

$$\forall y \in \partial B_1(0) : \quad G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) = \Phi(x - y) - \Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) = 0.$$

Next, in distribution it needs to be shown that $\Delta_y \Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) = 0$ on $x, y \in B_1(0)$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) &= \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2\pi}(\log(|\tilde{x}(x) - y|) + \log(|x|)) & , n = 2 \\ \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n |\tilde{x}(x) - y|^{n-2} |x|^{n-2}} & , n > 2 \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \Phi(\tilde{x}(x) - y) + \Phi(|x|) & , n = 2 \\ \Phi(\tilde{x}(x) - y) \frac{1}{|x|^{n-2}} & , n > 2 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

We already have shown that $\Delta_y \Phi(x - y) = -\delta(x - y)$ and $\Delta_z \Phi(z) = -\delta(z)$. We will now show that $\Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(\cdot) - y))$ has its singularity outside of $B_1(0)$. This is the case because first for $x \in B_1(0)$ it holds that $|x| < 1$ which implies that

$$|\tilde{x}(x)| = \left| \frac{x}{|x|^2} \right| = \frac{1}{|x|} > 1$$

and second because

$$\Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) \text{ singular} \iff y = \tilde{x}(x).$$

Because by construction Φ has only on singularity and because $\tilde{x}(x) \notin B_1(0)$ for $x \in B_1(0)$ it follows that $-\Phi(|x|(\tilde{x}(x) - y)) = G_\Omega(x, y) - \Phi(x - y)$ is harmonic on $B_1(0)$. \square

Theorem 4.8: Poisson Represation Formula

For $f \in C^2(\overline{B_r(z)})$ and $g \in C(\partial B_r(z))$ the unique solution of the Dirichlet Problem on $\Omega = B_r(z)$ is given by

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{r^{n-2}} \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_1(0)} \left(\frac{x-z}{r}, \frac{y-z}{r} \right) f(y) d^n y + \frac{1 - \frac{|x-z|^2}{r^2}}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \frac{g(z + ry)}{\left| \frac{x-z}{r} - y \right|^n} d\sigma(y).$$

Proof. Remember that we can decompose the Dirichlet problem into two subproblem.

1. $-\Delta u = f$ on Ω and $u = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ (Poisson equation with homogeneous boundary data)

2. $\Delta u = 0$ on Ω and $u = g$ on $\partial\Omega$ (Laplace equation with inhomogenous boundary data).

The affine map $\psi : \overline{B_r(z)} \rightarrow \overline{B_1(0)}$, $x \mapsto \frac{x-z}{r}$ is a homomorphism from $B_r(z)$ to $B_1(0)$ and also from $\partial B_r(z)$ onto $\partial B_1(0)$. Further note that

$$\begin{aligned} & r^{2-n} \Phi \left(\frac{x-z}{r} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right) - \Phi(x-y) \\ &= r^{2-n} \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n \left| \frac{x-z}{r} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right|^{n-2}} - \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n |x-y|^{n-2}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

vanishes for $n > 2$ and for $n = 2$ it is constant:

$$\begin{aligned} & r^{2-n} \Phi \left(\frac{x-z}{r} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right) - \Phi(x-y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \log \left(\left| \frac{x-z}{r} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right| \right) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \log(|x-y|) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} (\log(|x-y|) - \log(|r|)) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \log(|x-y|) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log(|r|). \end{aligned}$$

Due to the fact $\Phi(rx) = r^{2-n}\Phi(x)$ we can write for $x, y \in B_r(z)$ the Greens function as

$$\begin{aligned} G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), \psi(y)) &= \Phi(\psi(x) - \psi(y)) - \Phi(|\psi(x)|(\tilde{x}(\psi(x)) - \psi(y))) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(x - z + z - y) - \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(|x - z| \left(\frac{x-z}{r|\psi(x)|^2} - y - z \right)) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(x - y) - \Phi \left(\left| \frac{x-z}{r} \right| \left(\tilde{x} \left(\frac{x-z}{r} \right) - \frac{y-z}{r} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(x - y) - \Phi \left(\left| \frac{x-z}{r} \right| \left(\frac{x-z}{r \left| \frac{x-z}{r} \right|^2} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(x - y) - \Phi \left(\left| \frac{x-z}{r} \right| \left(r \frac{x-z}{|x-z|^2} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} \Phi(x - y) - \Phi \left(\frac{1}{r} \left| \frac{x-z}{r} \right| \underbrace{\left(r^2 \frac{x-z}{|x-z|^2} + z - y \right)}_{=: \tilde{x}_z^r(x) \in \partial B_r(z)} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} (\Phi(x - y) - \Phi(|x - z|(\tilde{x}_z^r(x - z) - y))) = \frac{1}{r^{2-n}} G_{B_r(z)}(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

The above is equivalent to

$$G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) = r^{2-n} G_{B_1(0)} \left(\frac{x-z}{r}, \frac{y-z}{r} \right).$$

We now do the first subproblem. Here the solution of the Poisson equation $-\Delta u = f$ is given by

$$u(x) = \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) f(y) d^n y - \underbrace{\int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(z) \nabla_z G_{B_r(z)}(x, z) N d\sigma(z)}_{=0},$$

i.e. the solution of the homogenous poisson equation differs by a constant term from the solution of the solution of the inhomogenous Poisson equation (???). By definition of the Greens function the limit to the boundary of the second term vanishes. By symmetry we can thus show that for all $x_0 \in \partial B_r(z)$:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} u(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) f(y) d^n y = \int_{B_r(z)} \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} G_{B_r(z)}(y, x) f(y) d^n y = 0.$$

Therefore, the solution on $B_r(z)$ extends continuously to $\partial B_r(z)$ and is equal to $g = 0$. Now we focus on the second problem. Note that for $x \in B_r(z)$ the solution then is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x) &= \underbrace{\int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) f(\bar{y}) d^n y}_{=0} - \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(y) \nabla_y G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= -r^{2-n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(y) \nabla_{\frac{y-z}{r}} G_{B_1(0)}\left(\frac{x-z}{r}, \frac{y-z}{r}\right) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= -r^{2-n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(y) \nabla_{\psi(y)} G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), \psi(y)) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= -r^{2-n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(y) \nabla_y (G_{B_1(0)} \circ \psi)(x, y) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= -r^{2-n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(y) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), \psi(y)) r^{-1} \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= -r^{2-n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} g(yr + z) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), \psi(yr + z)) r^{-1} r^{n-1} \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= - \int_{\partial B_1(0)} g(yr + z) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), y) \cdot N d\sigma(y)
\end{aligned}$$

In the following we will write $x := \psi(x) \in B_1(0)$ (a little crude definition) and analyze for $y \in \partial B_1(0)$ the term $K(x, y) := \nabla_y G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) \cdot N$. We will show that this term is harmonic. Clearly it holds

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla_y |x - y|^{2-n} &= (2-n) |x - y|^{1-n} \nabla_y |x - y| = (2-n) |x - y|^{1-n} \nabla_y \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\
&= (2-n) |x - y|^{1-n} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{|x - y|} \nabla (x - y)^2 \\
&= (2-n) |x - y|^{1-n} \frac{(-1)(x - y)}{|x - y|}.
\end{aligned}$$

Using the above and the fact that $|y| = 1$ we get for $n > 2$ (not done for $n = 2$)

$$\begin{aligned}
K(x, y) &:= -\nabla_y \left(\Phi(x - y) - |x|^{2-n} \Phi(\tilde{x}(x) - y) \right) \frac{y}{|y|} \\
&= -\frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n} \nabla_y \left(\frac{1}{|x-y|^{n-2}} - |x|^{2-n} \frac{1}{|\tilde{x}(x)-y|^{n-2}} \right) y \\
&= -\frac{y}{n(n-2)\omega_n} \nabla_y (|x-y|^{2-n} - |x|^{2-n} |\tilde{x}(x)-y|^{2-n}) \\
&= -\frac{y}{n(n-2)\omega_n} \left((2-n)|x-y|^{1-n} \frac{(-1)(x-y)}{|x-y|} - |x|^{2-n} (2-n) |\tilde{x}(x)-y|^{1-n} \frac{(-1)(\tilde{x}(x)-y)}{|\tilde{x}(x)-y|} \right) \\
&= \frac{y}{n\omega_n} \left(|x-y|^{1-n} \frac{(-1)(x-y)}{|x-y|} - |x|^{2-n} |\tilde{x}(x)-y|^{1-n} \frac{(-1)(\tilde{x}(x)-y)}{|\tilde{x}(x)-y|} \right) \\
&= \frac{y}{n\omega_n} \left(\frac{y-x}{|x-y|^n} - |x|^{2-n} \frac{y-\tilde{x}(x)}{|\tilde{x}(x)-y|^n} \right) \\
&= \frac{y(y-x)}{n\omega_n |x-y|^n} - \frac{y(y-\tilde{x}(x))}{n\omega_n |\tilde{x}(x)-y|^n} |x|^{2-n} \\
&= \frac{y(y-x)}{n\omega_n |x-y|^n} - \frac{y(y-\tilde{x}(x))}{n\omega_n |\tilde{x}(x)-y|^n} |x|^{2-n}
\end{aligned}$$

Due to the fact that

$$\begin{aligned}
|\tilde{x}(x) - y|^2 |x|^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n |x|^2 \left(\frac{x_i}{|x|^2} - y_i \right)^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n |x|^2 \left(\frac{x_i^2}{|x|^4} - 2 \frac{x_i}{|x|^2} y_i + y_i^2 \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{x_i^2}{|x|^2} - 2x_i y_i + |x|^2 y_i^2 \right) \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}{|x|^2} - \sum_{i=1}^n 2x_i y_i + |x|^2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 \\
&= 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n 2x_i y_i + |x|^2 = |y|^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n 2x_i y_i + |x|^2 = |x - y|^2 \\
&\iff |\tilde{x}(x) - y| |x| = |x - y|
\end{aligned}$$

we get that the above is

$$\begin{aligned}
 K(x, y) &= \frac{y(y-x)}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} - \frac{y(y-\tilde{x}(x))}{n\omega_n|\tilde{x}(x)-y|^n}|x|^{2-n} \\
 &= \frac{y(y-x)}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} - \frac{y(y-\tilde{x}(x))}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n}|x|^2 \\
 &= \frac{yy-yx}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} - \frac{yy|x|^2-yx}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} \\
 &= \frac{\overbrace{yy}^{=|y|=1}}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} - \frac{yy|x|^2}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} = \frac{1-|x|^2}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n}
 \end{aligned}$$

Because $y \in \partial B_1(0)$ it follows for all $x \in B_1(0)$ that

$$\Delta_x K(x, y) = -\Delta_x \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) \frac{y}{|y|} = -\nabla_y \underbrace{\Delta_x G_{B_1(0)}(x, y)}_{=\Delta_x G_{B_1(0)}(x, y)=-\delta_0(x-y)=0} \frac{y}{|y|} = 0.$$

Thus due to symmetry $x \mapsto K(x, y)$ is harmonic.

We now want to show that u extends continuously to $\partial B_r(z)$ and is there equal to 1. For $x \in B_1(0)$ and $x_0 \in \partial B_1(0)$ it holds with symmetry

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} u(z+rx) = \int_{\partial B_1(0)} g(z+ry) \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} K(x, y) d\sigma(y) = \int_{\partial B_1(0)} g(z+ry) \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} K(y, x) d\sigma(y) \text{ exists.}$$

Next, observe that

- $\forall (x, y) \in B_1(0) \times \partial B_1(0) : K(x, y) = \frac{1-|x|^2}{n\omega_n|x-y|^n} > 0.$
- The mapping $y \mapsto K(\lambda x, y)$ is uniform convergent as $\lambda \rightarrow 1$ for $x \in \partial B_1(0)$. This is due to the following: Choose $x \in \partial B_1(0)$ and $y \in \partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\epsilon(x)$ for $\epsilon > 0$ arbitrary. Then

$$K(x\lambda, y) = \frac{1-|\lambda x|^2}{n\omega_n|\lambda x-y|^n} = \frac{1-\lambda^2}{n\omega_n|\lambda x-y|^n} \leq \frac{1-\lambda^2}{n\omega_n(\epsilon-(1-\lambda))^n} \rightarrow 0, \lambda \rightarrow 1,$$

although we used that $|\lambda x - y| \geq |x - y| - |x - \lambda x| \geq \epsilon - |x - \lambda x| = \epsilon - (1 - \lambda).$

- Now choose $x \in \partial B_1(0)$ and $y = x$, then

$$K(\lambda x, y) = \frac{1-|\lambda x|^2}{n\omega_n|\lambda x-x|^n} = \frac{1-\lambda^2}{n\omega_n(1-\lambda)^n} = \frac{(1-\lambda)(1+\lambda)}{n\omega_n(1-\lambda)^n} = \frac{1+\lambda}{n\omega_n(1-\lambda)^{n-1}} \rightarrow \infty, \lambda \rightarrow 1.$$

We now want to show that for $x_0 \in \partial B_r(z)$ and $x \in B_r(z)$ that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} u(x) = g(x_0).$$

For that define $w \equiv 1$ on $\overline{B_1(0)}$, then it holds

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\partial B_1(0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y) &= \int_{\partial B_1(0)} w(y) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&= \int_{\partial B_1(0)} (w(y) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) - G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) \nabla_y w(y)) \cdot N d\sigma(y) \\
&\stackrel{\text{Greens2}}{=} \int_{B_1(0)} w(y) \Delta_y G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) - G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) \Delta_y w(y) d^n y \\
&= \int_{B_1(0)} \Delta_y G_{B_1(0)}(x, y) d^n y = \int_{B_1(0)} \delta_x(y) d^n y = 1.
\end{aligned}$$

Using that it follows for all $\epsilon > 0$ and $\delta > 0$ such that $|x - y| < \delta$ it follows with continuity that $g(y) - g(x_0) < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$. Due to the fact that $\int_{\partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow x_0$ for $|y - x_0| < \delta$ such that

$$\int_{\partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4\|g\|_\infty}$$

it follows

$$\begin{aligned}
|u(x) - g(x_0)| &\leq \int_{\partial B_1(0)} K(x, y) |g(y) - g(x_0)| d\sigma(y) \\
&\leq \int_{\partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) |g(y) - g(x_0)| d\sigma(y) + \int_{\partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) |g(y) - g(x_0)| d\sigma(y) \\
&\leq 2\|g\|_\infty \int_{\partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y) + \int_{\partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) \frac{\epsilon}{2} d\sigma(y) \\
&\leq 2\|g\|_\infty \underbrace{\int_{\partial B_1(0) \setminus \partial B_\delta(x_0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y)}_{\rightarrow 0, x \rightarrow x_0} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \underbrace{\int_{\partial B_1(0)} K(x, y) d\sigma(y)}_{=1} \\
&\leq 2\|g\|_\infty \frac{\epsilon}{4\|g\|_\infty} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon.
\end{aligned}$$

Because $\epsilon > 0$ was chosen arbitrary the assertion follows.

Finally, we have shown in this proof that the solution of 1. is

$$u_1(x) = \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_r(z)}(x, y) f(y) d^n y = \frac{1}{r^{n-2}} \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), \psi(y)) f(y) d^n y$$

and for 2. is

$$u_2(x) = \int_{\partial B_r(z)} g(yr + z) \nabla_y G_{B_1(0)}(\psi(x), y) \cdot N d\sigma(y) = \frac{1 - |\psi(x)|^2}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{g(yr + z)}{|\psi(x) - y|^n} d\sigma(y).$$

Thus in total the solution of the Dirichlet problem is

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{r^{n-2}} \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_1(0)}\left(\frac{x - z}{r}, \frac{y - z}{r}\right) f(y) d^n y + \frac{1 - \left|\frac{x - z}{r}\right|^2}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{g(yr + z)}{\left|\frac{x - z}{r} - y\right|^n} d\sigma(y).$$

□

Corollary 4.9

Harmonic functions on an open domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ are analytic.

Proof. Let u be harmonic on $B_r(z)$ and extend continuously to $\partial B_r(z)$ where $u \equiv g$, for some $g \in C^2(\partial B_r(z))$. This can be represented as a Dirichlet problem. Its solution is the given by the result of the last theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x) &= \frac{1}{r^{n-2}} \int_{B_r(z)} G_{B_1(0)} \left(\frac{x-z}{r}, \frac{y-z}{r} \right) \underbrace{f(y)}_{=-\Delta u=0} d^n y + \frac{1 - \frac{|x-z|^2}{r^2}}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \frac{g(z+ry)}{\left| \frac{x-z}{r} - y \right|^n} d\sigma(y) \\
 &= \frac{1 - \frac{|x-z|^2}{r^2}}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_1(0)} \frac{u(z+ry)}{\left| \frac{x-z}{r} - y \right|^n} d\sigma(y) \\
 &= \frac{1 - \frac{|x-z|^2}{r^2}}{n\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{u(y)}{\left| \frac{x-z}{r} - \frac{y-z}{r} \right|^n} r^{1-n} d\sigma(y) \\
 &= \frac{r^2 - |x-z|^2}{nr^2\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{u(y)}{|x-y|^n} r^n r^{1-n} d\sigma(y) \\
 &= \frac{r^2 - |x-z|^2}{nr\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{u(y)}{|x-y|^n} d\sigma(y)
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that for $x = z$ it follows that $|x - y| = r$ and

$$u(x) = \frac{r^2}{nr\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} \frac{u(y)}{r^n} d\sigma(y) = \frac{1}{nr^{n-1}\omega_n} \int_{\partial B_r(z)} u(y) d\sigma(y),$$

which is exactly the mean value property.

Remember for a sequence of the form $(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x^i)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ the radius of convergence is defined as $R := \frac{1}{\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_i|}}$.

A function is called analytic in x_0 if there exists a Taylor series $\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} (x - x_0)^k$ that converges to $f(x_0)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and its convergence radius R is positive. ...? \square

Lemma 4.10

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open neighborhood of 0 and u a bounded harmonic function on $\Omega \setminus \{0\}$. Then u extends as a harmonic function to Ω .

Proof. Let $B_r(0) \subset \Omega$ have compact closure in Ω . With the theorem before the solution for the Dirichlet Problem where $f = 0$ on $B_r(0)$ and $g = u$ on $\partial B_r(0)$ there exists a unique $\tilde{u} \in C^2(B_r(0)) \cap C^0(\overline{B_r(0)})$. Note that u is as defined in the lemma. We define

$$u_\epsilon(x) := \tilde{u}(x) - u(x) + \epsilon G_{B_r(0)}(x, 0), \quad x \in B_r(0) \setminus \{0\}, \quad \epsilon \in \mathbb{R}.$$

By definition of the Greens function it holds in distribution that $-\Delta G_{B_r(0)}(x, 0) = \delta_0$, $G_{B_r(0)}(x, 0)$ vanishes on $\partial B_r(0)$ and it has a singularity in $x = 0$, due to the fact that $G_{B_r(x, 0)}$ is singular iff $\tilde{x}(x) = 0$, which is equivalent to $x = 0$.

Due to the fact that $G_{B_r(0)}(x, 0)$ vanishes on $\partial B_r(0)$ it follows that for $x_0 \in \partial B_r(0)$ $\tilde{u}(x_0) = u(x_0)$, which yields $u_\epsilon(x_0) = 0$. Further, as stated before, $G_{B_r(0)}(x, 0)$ is singular in $x = 0$. Due to the fact that \tilde{u} and u are

bounded it follows for every $\epsilon > 0$ that $u_\epsilon(x) \rightarrow \infty, x \rightarrow 0$. Note that u_ϵ is a harmonic function on $B_r(0) \setminus \{0\}$ (linear combination of harmonic functions).

We now want to show that for $\epsilon > 0$ the function u_ϵ is non-negative. For that assume that u_ϵ takes a negative value on $B_r(0) \setminus \{0\}$. Due to the fact that there is a pole in $x = 0$ with $u_\epsilon(0) = \infty$ and on the boundary we have $u_\epsilon(x) = 0$ it follows that there exists a negative minimum value in the interior. With the strong minimum principle it follows that u_ϵ is constant. This a contradiction to the fact that the pole in $x = 0$ is equal to $+\infty$.

The argument is analougous for $\epsilon < 0$ and u_ϵ non-positive.

In total it holds

$$0 \leftarrow \lim_{\epsilon \nearrow 0} u_\epsilon(x) = \tilde{u}(x) - u(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \searrow 0} u_\epsilon(x) \rightarrow 0, \quad x \in B_r(0) \setminus \{0\}.$$

Thus \tilde{u} is a harmonic extension of u on Ω . □