

# Polynomial differential operators and Besov spaces

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May 27, 2018

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**Definition 1.** We say that  $P$  is a *polynomial differential operator of type  $(n, k)$*  if  $P$  is of the form

$$P(F) = \sum c_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_v}(x, F(x)) D^{\alpha_1} F^{a_1} \dots D^{\alpha_v} F^{a_v}$$

where the coefficients  $c_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_v}$  depend smoothly and nonlinearly on  $x$  and  $F$  and  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}^N$  are indices with the weighted norm  $\|\alpha_i\| \leq k$  and  $\sum \|\alpha_i\| \leq n$ .

**Example 2.** On  $M \times [\alpha, \omega]$  the tension field  $\tau(F) := -\Delta F^\alpha + g^{ij} \Gamma'_{\beta\gamma}{}^\alpha(F) F_i^\beta F_j^\gamma$  is a polynomial differential operator of type  $(2, 2)$ . The quadratic term alone is of type  $(2, 1)$ .

## 1 A regularity estimate for polynomial differential operator.

Our goal in this part is to prove the following estimate for polynomial differential operator, in which  $X$  will be  $M \times [\alpha, \omega]$ .

**Theorem 3** (Regularity of polynomial differential operator). *Let  $X$  be a compact Riemannian manifold,  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is a large Euclidean ball and  $P$  be a polynomial differential operator of type  $(n, k)$  on  $X$ . Suppose that*

$$r \geq 0, \quad p, q \in (1, \infty), \quad r + k < s, \quad \frac{1}{p} > \frac{r + n}{s} \frac{1}{q}. \quad (1)$$

Then for all  $F \in C(X, B) \cap W^{s,q}(X)$ , one has  $PF \in W^{r,p}(X)$  and

$$\|PF\|_{W^{r,p}} \leq C (1 + \|F\|_{W^{s,q}})^{q/p}.$$

where  $C$  is a constant independent of  $F$ .

We will prove that the result is *local*, in a sense to be defined. Then we will prove the local statement using Besov spaces.

*Proof (reduction of Theorem 3 to a local statement).* Let  $\{\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow V_i\}$  be an atlas of  $M$ . We denote a point in  $U_i$  by  $x$  and its coordinates in  $V_i$  by  $\xi$ . Let  $\sum \psi_i = 1$  be a partition of unity subordinated to  $\{U_i\}$  and  $\tilde{\psi}_i$  be smooth functions supported in  $U_i$  with  $0 \leq \tilde{\psi}_i \leq 1$  and  $\tilde{\psi}_i = 1$  in the support of  $\psi_i$ , as in the definition of Sobolev spaces on manifold. We suppose the following local statement is true:

**Lemma 4** (Local statement). *Let  $P$  be a polynomial differential operator of type  $(n, k)$  and coefficients  $c_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k}(x, F)$  are smooth and vanish when  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{\dim X}$  is outside of a compact. Let  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a large Euclidean ball and  $r, p, q, s$  as in (1). Then for all compactly supported  $F \in C(\mathbb{R}^{\dim X}, B) \cap W^{s, q}(\mathbb{R}^{\dim X})$ , one has*

$$\|PF\|_{W^{r, p}} \leq C (1 + \|F\|_{W^{s, q}})^{q/p}$$

where the constant  $C$  depends only on  $B$  and the support of  $F$ , and not on  $F$ .

One has

$$\|PF\|_{W^{r, p}} := \sum_i \|\psi_i PF\|_{W^{r, p}}$$

where viewed in the chart  $U_i$ , each  $\psi_i(x)PF(x)$  is  $\sum_{\alpha} \psi_i(\xi) \cdot c_{\alpha}(\xi, g_i) \cdot D^{\alpha} g_i$  where  $g_i = f_i \circ \varphi_i^{-1}$  is  $f_i$  viewed in the chart. Since  $\tilde{\psi}_i = 1$  in the support of  $\psi_i$ , one has

$$\psi_i(\xi) \cdot c_{\alpha}(\xi, g_i) \cdot D^{\alpha} g_i = \psi_i(\xi) \cdot c_{\alpha}(\xi, \tilde{\psi}_i g_i) D^{\alpha} (\tilde{\psi}_i g_i)$$

hence by the local statement:

$$\|\psi_i(\xi) \cdot c_{\alpha}(\xi, g_i) \cdot D^{\alpha} g_i\|_{W^{r, p}} \leq C (1 + \|\tilde{\psi}_i g_i\|_{W^{s, q}})^{q/p} \leq C (1 + \|F\|_{W^{s, q}})^{q/p}.$$

Therefore  $\|PF\|_{W^{r, p}} \leq mC (1 + \|F\|_{W^{s, q}})^{q/p}$  where  $m$  is the number of charts we used to cover  $M$ .  $\square$

**Remark 5.** *The use of partition of unity in the last proof is to decompose  $PF = \sum \psi_i PF$  and not  $F = \sum \psi_i F$  since we no longer have linearity of the operator  $P$  in  $F$ .*

## 2 Review of Besov spaces $B^{s, p}$ .

In this part,  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$  coordinated by  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  with weight  $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$ . We define

$$T_j^v f(x_1, \dots, x_n) := f(x_1, \dots, x_j + v, \dots, x_n), \quad \Delta_j^v := T_j^v - \text{Id}$$

for  $f \in \mathcal{S}(X)$ .

For the notation, we will denote the Besov spaces by  $B^{s, p}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  and  $p \in (1, \infty)$  so that they look similar to Sobolev space  $W^{s, p}$ . In a more standard notation, our spaces  $B^{s, p}$  are denoted by  $B_{p, p}^s$

**Definition 6.** We define  $B^{s,p}$  as the completion of  $\mathcal{S}(X)$  under the norm

$$\|f\|_{B^{s,p}} := \sum_{\|\gamma\| < s} \|D^\gamma f\|_{L^p} + \sum_{s - \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_j} < \|\gamma\| < s} \sup_v \frac{\|\Delta_j^v D^\gamma f\|_{L^p}}{|v|^{(s - \|\gamma\|)\sigma_j/\sigma}}$$

We cite here some well-known facts

1. While Sobolev spaces with non-integral regularity are complex interpolation of integral ones, Besov spaces are their real interpolation.
2. Besov spaces  $B^{s,p}(X)$  are reflexive Banach spaces with their dual spaces being  $B^{-s,p'}(X)$  where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$ .

**Theorem 7.** If  $r < s$  then

$$W^{s,p}(X) \subset B^{s,p}(X) \subset W^{r,p}(X).$$

**Theorem 8** (Multiplication). For  $f, g \in \mathcal{S}(X)$  and  $\begin{cases} 0 < \alpha < 1, \tilde{p} \leq p, \tilde{q} \leq q, \tilde{r} \leq r \\ \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{r}, \frac{1}{\tilde{p}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{\tilde{r}} \end{cases}$ , one has

$$\|fg\|_{B^{\alpha,\tilde{r}}} \leq C (\|f\|_{B^{\alpha,\tilde{p}}} \|g\|_{L^q} + \|f\|_{L^p} \|g\|_{B^{\alpha,\tilde{q}}}) \quad (2)$$

$$\|fg\|_{L^r} \leq \|f\|_{L^p} \|g\|_{L^q} \quad (3)$$

Therefore by density (2) is true for all  $f \in L^p \cap B^{\alpha,\tilde{p}}, g \in L^q \cap B^{\alpha,\tilde{q}}$  and (3) is true for all  $f \in L^p, g \in L^q$ .

The reason for which we use the Besov norm is the following estimate:

**Theorem 9** (Composition). Let  $\Gamma(x, y)$  be a continuous, nonlinear function of variables  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Suppose that  $\Gamma$  vanishes for all  $x$  outside of a compact in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\Gamma$  is  $C$ -Lipschitz in  $y$ , and define

$$\Gamma f := (x \mapsto \Gamma(x, f(x))).$$

Then

$$\|\Gamma f\| \leq C(1 + \|f\|_{B^{\alpha,p}})$$

### 3 Proof of the local estimate.

Since  $B^{r+\epsilon,p}(X) \subset W^{r,p}(X)$ , by increasing  $r$  a bit, we can suppose that  $r \notin \mathbb{Z}$  and replace the  $W^{r,p}$  norm in the statement by the  $B^{r,p}$  norm, that is to estimate:

$$\|PF\|_{B^{r,p}} = \sum_{\|\gamma\| < r} \|D^\gamma(PF)\|_{L^p} + \sum_{r - \sigma/\sigma_j < \|\gamma\| < r} \frac{\|\Delta_j^v D^\gamma(PF)\|_{L^p}}{|v|^{(r - \|\gamma\|)\sigma_j/\sigma}}$$

where

$$D^\gamma(PF) = \sum c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}(x, F) D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1} \dots D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu} \quad (4)$$

with  $\max \|\beta_i\| \leq k + \|\gamma\|$  and  $\sum \|\beta_i\| \leq n + \|\gamma\|$ .

Using  $\Delta_j^v(fg) = \Delta_j^v f T_j^v g + f \Delta_j^v g$ , one can see that  $\Delta_j^v D^\gamma(PF)$  is a sum of terms of 2 types:

$$\Delta_j^v c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu} T_j^v(D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1}) \dots T_j^v(D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}) \quad (5)$$

and

$$c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu} D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1} \dots D^{\beta_{i-1}} f^{b_{i-1}} \Delta_j^v(D^{\beta_i} f^{b_i}) T_j^v(D^{\beta_{i+1}} f^{b_{i+1}}) \dots T_j^v(D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}) \quad (6)$$

Our strategy is to use Theorem 8 to estimate the terms (4), (5) and (6) as follows, where we denote  $\|g\|_p := \|g\|_{L^p}$

$$\left\| c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}(x, F) D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1} \dots D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu} \right\|_p \leq \|c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}\|_\infty \cdot \|D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1}\|_{p_1} \dots \|D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}\|_{p_\mu} \quad (7)$$

$$\left\| \Delta_j^v c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu} T_j^v(D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1}) \dots T_j^v(D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}) \right\|_p \leq \|\Delta_j^v c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}\|_{\tilde{p}_0} \cdot \|D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1}\|_{p_1} \dots \|D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}\|_{p_\mu} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu} D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1} \dots D^{\beta_{i-1}} f^{b_{i-1}} \Delta_j^v(D^{\beta_i} f^{b_i}) T_j^v(D^{\beta_{i+1}} f^{b_{i+1}}) \dots T_j^v(D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}) \right\|_p \leq \\ & \|c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}\|_\infty \cdot \|D^{\beta_1} f^{b_1}\|_{p_1} \dots \|D^{\beta_{i-1}} f^{b_{i-1}}\|_{p_{i-1}} \cdot \|\Delta_j^v(D^{\beta_i} f^{b_i})\|_{\tilde{p}_i} \cdot \|D^{\beta_{i+1}} f^{b_{i+1}}\|_{p_{i+1}} \dots \|D^{\beta_\mu} f^{b_\mu}\|_{p_\mu} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Then continue by bounding the  $\Delta_j^v$  terms:

$$\|\Delta_j^v c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}\|_{\tilde{p}_0} \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} C(1 + \|F\|_{B^{\theta, \tilde{p}_0}}) \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} C(1 + \|F\|_{W^{\theta, \tilde{p}_0}}) \quad (10)$$

using Theorem 9, where  $C$  is the Lipschitz constant of  $c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}(x, F)$  in  $F$ , which exists because  $c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}$  is smooth and  $F$  always remains in a large Euclidean ball  $B$ . The next  $\Delta_j^v$  term to bound is, using Theorem 7:

$$\|\Delta_j^v(D^{\beta_i} f^{b_i})\|_{\tilde{p}_i} \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \|f^{b_i}\|_{B^{\|\beta_i\| + \theta, \tilde{p}_i}} \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{\|\beta_i\| + \theta, \tilde{p}_i}} \quad (11)$$

And finally plugging (10) and (11) in (8) and (9), and noting that  $\|c_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\mu}\|_\infty$  in (7) is bounded by a constant, it remains to estimate  $\|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{\|\beta_i\|, p_i}}$ ,  $\|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{\|\beta_i\| + \theta, \tilde{p}_i}}$  and  $\|F\|_{W^{\theta, \tilde{p}_0}}$  in term of  $\|F\|_{W^{s, q}}$ , for which we will use the following consequence of Interpolation inequality.

**Lemma 10.** *Let  $0 \leq r \leq s$  and  $p, q \in (1, \infty)$  such that  $0 < \frac{1}{p} - \frac{r}{s} \frac{1}{q} < 1 - \frac{r}{s}$ . Then for all compactly supported  $F \in C(X, B) \cap W^{s, q}$  where  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is a large Euclidean ball, one has*

$$\|F\|_{W^{r, p}} \leq C \|F\|_\infty^{1-r/s} \|F\|_{W^{s, q}}^{r/s} \leq C' \|F\|_{W^{s, q}}^{r/s}$$

where  $C, C'$  depend only on  $B$  and the support of  $F$ , but not  $F$ .

*Proof.* Since  $F$  is bounded,  $f^\alpha \in W^{s,q} \cap W^{0,v}$  for all  $v > 1$ . By Interpolation inequality

$$\|f^\alpha\|_{W^{r,p}} \leq 2 \|f^\alpha\|_{W^{s,q}}^{r/s} \|f^\alpha\|_{W^{0,v}}^{1-r/s}$$

then choose  $v$  with  $(1 - \frac{r}{s})\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{p} - \frac{r}{s}\frac{1}{q}$ . □

To apply Lemma 10, we have to choose  $p_i, \tilde{p}_i, \tilde{p}_0, \theta$  such that

$$\begin{cases} 0 < \frac{1}{p_i} - \frac{\|\beta_i\|}{s} \frac{1}{q} < 1 - \frac{\|\beta_i\|}{s}, \\ 0 < \frac{1}{\tilde{p}_i} - \frac{\|\beta_i + \theta\|}{s} \frac{1}{q} < 1 - \frac{\|\beta_i + \theta\|}{s}, \\ 0 < \frac{1}{\tilde{p}_0} - \frac{\theta}{s} \frac{1}{q} < 1 - \frac{\theta}{s} \end{cases}$$

We choose  $\frac{1}{p_i}$  just a bit bigger than  $\frac{\|\beta_i\|}{s} \frac{1}{q}$ ,  $\frac{1}{\tilde{p}_i}$  just a bit bigger than  $\frac{\|\beta_i + \theta\|}{s} \frac{1}{q}$  and  $\frac{1}{\tilde{p}_0}$  just a bit bigger than  $\frac{\theta}{s} \frac{1}{q}$ . We will now come back to justify the estimates (7), (8), (9). Since  $F$  is bounded in  $B$  and compactly supported in an open set  $V$ , we see that  $\|f^\alpha\|_p \leq C(B, V) \|f^\alpha\|_q$  if  $p \leq q$ . Therefore,

1. For (7), it is sufficient to have

$$\frac{1}{p} \geq \frac{1}{p_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{p_\mu}$$

which is true because the RHS is a bit bigger than  $\frac{1}{qs} \sum \|\beta_i\| \leq \frac{n + \|\gamma\|}{qs} < \frac{n+r}{qs} < \frac{1}{p}$ .

2. For (8), it is sufficient to have

$$\frac{1}{p} \geq \frac{1}{\tilde{p}_0} + \frac{1}{p_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{p_\mu}$$

where the RHS is a bit bigger than  $\frac{\theta}{s} \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{qs} \sum \|\beta_i\| \leq \frac{n + \|\gamma\| + \theta}{qs}$ .

3. For (9), it is sufficient to have

$$\frac{1}{p} \geq \frac{1}{p_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{\tilde{p}_i} + \dots + \frac{1}{p_\mu}$$

where the RHS is a bit bigger than  $\frac{\theta}{s} \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{qs} \sum \|\beta_i\| \leq \frac{n + \|\gamma\| + \theta}{qs}$ .

It is sufficient then to take  $\theta = r - \|\gamma\|$ . Now the estimates (7), (8), (9) can be continued as

$$RHS(7) \leq \prod_i \|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\|\beta_i\|/s} \leq \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\frac{n+\|\gamma\|}{s}} \leq \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{q/p} \quad (12)$$

$$RHS(8) \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \left(1 + \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\theta/s}\right) \prod_i \|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\|\beta_i\|/s} \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \left(1 + \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\theta/s}\right) \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{q/p} \quad (13)$$

$$RHS(9) \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \left(1 + \|f^{b_i}\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\frac{\|\beta_i\|+\theta}{s}}\right) \prod_{u \neq i} \|f^{b_u}\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\|\beta_u\|/s} \leq |v|^{\theta\sigma_j/\sigma} \left(1 + \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{\frac{\|\beta_i\|+\theta}{s}}\right) \|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{q/p} \quad (14)$$

While (12) gives  $\|D^\gamma(PF)\|_p \leq C\|F\|_{W^{s,q}}^{q/p}$ , the last two (13) and (14) give

$$\sum_{s-\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_j} < \|\gamma\| < s} \sup_v \frac{\|\Delta_j^v D^\gamma(PF)\|_p}{|v|^{(r-\|\gamma\|\sigma_j)/\sigma}} \leq C \left(1 + \|F\|_{W^{q,s}}^{(n+r)/s}\right)$$

We proved the local statement Lemma 4.