



Minimization of a Functional on the Space of BV Functions and Nonconforming Discretization of the Problem

I. Theoretical Basics and Characterization of Minimizers

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Sören Bartels. **Numerical Methods for Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations.** Vol. 47. Springer Series in Computational Mathematics. Springer International Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 978-3-319-13796-4. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-13797-1, Chapter 10, p. 297-319

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Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded polyhedral Lipschitz domain.

For given $g \in L^2(\Omega)$ and $\alpha > 0$ minimize the functional

$$I(v) = |v|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|v - g\|^2$$

amongst all $v \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)$.

Functions of Bounded Variation

A function $v \in L^1(\Omega)$ with distributional derivative $Dv : C_c^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be of bounded variation if there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$\langle Dv, \phi \rangle := - \int_{\Omega} v \operatorname{div}(\phi) \, dx \leq c \|\phi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$$

for all $\phi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$.

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for all $\phi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$.

The minimal constant $c \geq 0$ satisfying this property is called total variation of Dv and is given by

$$|v|_{\operatorname{BV}(\Omega)} = \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \\ \|\phi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq 1}} - \int_{\Omega} v \operatorname{div}(\phi) \, dx.$$

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The space of all such functions is denoted by $\operatorname{BV}(\Omega)$.

Properties of $BV(\Omega)$

$BV(\Omega)$ is a nonseparable Banach space equipped with the norm

$$\|v\|_{BV(\Omega)} := \|v\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + |v|_{BV(\Omega)} \quad \text{for all } v \in BV(\Omega).$$

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$W^{1,1}(\Omega) \subset BV(\Omega)$ with $\|v\|_{BV(\Omega)} = \|v\|_{W^{1,1}(\Omega)}$ for all $v \in W^{1,1}(\Omega)$.

Notions of convergence on $BV(\Omega)$

Let $(v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset BV(\Omega)$ and $v \in BV(\Omega)$ such that $v_n \rightarrow v$ in $L^1(\Omega)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

- (i) $(v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges intermediately or strictly to v if $|v_n|_{BV(\Omega)} \rightarrow |v|_{BV(\Omega)}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

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- (i) $(v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges intermediately or strictly to v if $|v_n|_{BV(\Omega)} \rightarrow |v|_{BV(\Omega)}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- (ii) $(v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges weakly to v if $\langle Dv_n, \phi \rangle \rightarrow \langle Dv, \phi \rangle$ for all $\phi \in C_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Further Properties of $BV(\Omega)$

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There exists a linear operator $T : BV(\Omega) \rightarrow L^1(\partial\Omega)$ such that $T(v) = v|_{\partial\Omega}$ for all $v \in BV(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$.

T is continuous with respect to intermediate convergence in $BV(\Omega)$ but not with respect to weak convergence in $BV(\Omega)$.

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For given $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ and $\alpha > 0$ minimize the functional

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For $f = \alpha g$ we have

$$I(v) = |v|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|v - g\|^2 = E(v) - \|v\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|g\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$$

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I and E have the same minimizers in
 $\{v \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega) \mid \|v\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)} = 0\}.$

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$$\forall w \in (L^2(\Omega))^* \cong L^2(\Omega) \supset L^\infty(\Omega) \cong (L^1(\Omega))^* :$$

$$\int_{\Omega} u_n w \, dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \bar{u} w \, dx \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

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- $u = \bar{u} \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)$.

Lawrence C. Evans and Ronald F. Gariepy. **Measure Theory and Fine Properties of Functions**. CRC Press, 1992. ISBN: 0-8493-7157-0, p. 183, Theorem 1

Let $v \in BV(\Omega)$. For all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ define

$$\tilde{v}(x) := \begin{cases} v(x) & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega. \end{cases}$$

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Lawrence C. Evans and Ronald F. Gariepy. **Measure Theory and Fine Properties of Functions**. CRC Press, 1992. ISBN: 0-8493-7157-0, p. 183, Theorem 1

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- $\tilde{u}_n \rightarrow \tilde{u}$ in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ since $u_n \rightarrow u$ in $L^1(\Omega)$.

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Let $(v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \text{BV}(\Omega)$ and $v \in L^1(\Omega)$ such that $|v_n|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} \leq c$ for some $c > 0$ and all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $v_n \rightarrow v$ in $L^1(\Omega)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then $v \in \text{BV}(\Omega)$ and $|v|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} |v_n|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)}$. Furthermore v_n converges weakly to v in $\text{BV}(\Omega)$.

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$$\begin{aligned} |u|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} + \|u\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)} &= |\tilde{u}|_{\text{BV}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\tilde{u}_n|_{\text{BV}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \\ &= \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (|u_n|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} + \|u_n\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)}). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \inf_{v \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} E(v) &\leq E(u) \\
 &\leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(u_n) \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(u_n) \\
 &= \inf_{v \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} E(v),
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\min_{v \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} E(v) = E(u).$



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Let $u_1, u_2 \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)$ be minimizers of E with $f_1, f_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$ instead of f .

Then

$$\|u_1 - u_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \|f_1 - f_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)}.$$

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Define convex functionals $F : \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $G_\ell : \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\ell = 1, 2$, via

$$F(u) := |u|_{\text{BV}(\Omega)} + \|u\|_{L^1(\partial\Omega)}, \quad G_\ell(u) := \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 - \int_{\Omega} f_\ell u \, dx.$$

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The Fréchet derivative $G'_\ell(u) : L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of G_ℓ at $u \in \text{BV}(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)$ is

$$G'_\ell(u) = \alpha(u, \bullet)_{L^2(\Omega)} - \int_{\Omega} f_\ell \bullet \, dx = (\alpha u - f_\ell, \bullet)_{L^2(\Omega)}.$$

Eberhard Zeidler. **Nonlinear Functional Analysis and its Applications. III: Variational Methods and Optimization.**
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Let $(X, \|\bullet\|_X)$ be a real Banach space and $H : X \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty]$.

The subdifferential of H at some $u \in X$ with $H(u) \neq \pm\infty$ is

$$\partial H(u) := \{u^* \in X^* \mid \forall v \in X \quad H(v) \geq H(u) + \langle u^*, v - u \rangle\}$$

Define $\partial H(u) := \emptyset$ if $H(u) = \pm\infty$.

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$u^* \in \partial H(u)$ is called subgradient of H at u .

If $H : X \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ such that $H \not\equiv \infty$, then $H(u) = \inf_{v \in X} H(v)$ if and only if $0 \in \partial H(u)$.

If H convex and Gâteaux differentiable at $u \in X$ with Gâteaux derivative $H'(u)$, then $\partial H(u) = \{H'(u)\}$.

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$H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n : X \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ and the summation of sets in X^* commute, [Zei85, S. 389, Theorem 47.B] implies the following statement.

If the functionals $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n : X \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$, $n \geq 2$, are convex and there exists $u_0 \in X$ and $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that $H_k(u_0) < \infty$ for all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and H_k continuous at u_0 for all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \setminus \{j\}$, then

$$\partial(H_1 + H_2 + \dots + H_n)(u) = \partial H_1(u) + \partial H_2(u) + \dots + \partial H_n(u)$$

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$$0 \in \partial E_\ell(u_\ell) = \partial F(u_\ell) + \partial G_\ell(u_\ell) = \partial F(u_\ell) + \{G'_\ell(u_\ell)\} \text{ for } \ell = 1, 2.$$

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Let $H : X \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ convex and lower semi-continuous with $H \not\equiv \infty$.

Then $\partial H(\bullet)$ is monoton, i.e.

$$\langle u^* - v^*, u - v \rangle \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in X, u^* \in \partial H(u), v^* \in \partial H(v).$$

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$$\text{Hence } \langle -(\alpha u_1 - f_1) + (\alpha u_2 - f_2), u_1 - u_2 \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq 0.$$

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$$\text{Hence } \left(-(\alpha u_1 - f_1) + (\alpha u_2 - f_2), u_1 - u_2 \right)_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq 0.$$

With the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality this implies

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \|u_1 - u_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq (f_1 - f_2, u_1 - u_2)_{L^2(\Omega)} \\ &\leq \|f_1 - f_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|u_1 - u_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$



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