

Advanced Partial Differential Equations Exams

This is a small collection of some of the past exams for the Advanced Partial Differential Equations course at Politecnico di Milano. I compiled this document to help other students prepare for the exam. I do not guarantee the correctness of the solutions, some are mine, some are my friends' and some are from the files available on the AIM website. If you find any mistakes, please let me know or correct them yourself. The source code for this document can be found on GitHub (sorry in advance for my terrible LaTeX code).

1 Exams 2021/22

1.1 June 2021

Exercise 1

For $a, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$, consider the Cauchy problem for the wave equation

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} - 4u_{xx} = 0 & (x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = e^{-x^2} + \gamma e^{-(x-a)^2} & x \in \mathbb{R} \\ u_t(x, 0) = 0 & x \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

Show that the mass M of the solution is constant, then find the couples (a, γ) such that:

- $M = 0$.
- The solution $u(x, 1)$ at $t = 1$ consists of only two “bumps”.

To show that the mass M of the solution is constant we need to define such a mass, and then check its behavior over time.

The mass M of the solution is defined as $M(t) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx$.

$$M''(t) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial^2 t} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{tt} dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 4u_{xx} dx = 4 \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)_x dx}_{\text{div. form}=0} = 0$$

So $M(t) = A + Bt$. But $M'(t) = B$, and also $M'(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t(x, t) dx$. Since $M'(t)$ is constant we take $M'(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t(x, 0) dx = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0$.

Then we conclude that $M(t) = A$ is constant too, and $M(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-x^2} + \gamma e^{-(x-a)^2} dx$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-x^2} + \underbrace{\gamma e^{-(x-a)^2}}_{\substack{x-a=y \\ dx=dy}} dx = (1 + \gamma) \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-y^2} dy = \sqrt{\pi}(1 + \gamma)$$

After that we need to show that $M = 0$, so $\sqrt{\pi}(1 + \gamma) = 0 \iff \gamma = -1$

Then we look for the values of a such that the solution consists of two “bumps”.

Remark 1

For a hyperbolic equation, we know that the solution $u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}(g(x + ct) + g(x - ct))$

In this case we have $u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2}(\overbrace{g(x + 2t) + g(x - 2t)}^{\substack{c \text{ is } 2 \\ bc \ 4u_{xx}}})$, which becomes

$$u_{a,\gamma}(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{-(x+2t)^2} + \gamma e^{-(x-a+2t)^2} + e^{-(x-2t)^2} + \gamma e^{-(x-a-2t)^2} \right)$$

that, for $\gamma = -1$ and $t = 1$

$$u_{a,\gamma}(x, 1) = \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{-(x+2)^2} - e^{-(x-a+2)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2} - e^{-(x-a-2)^2} \right)$$

We can see that this solution has four “bumps” in $x = -2, x = 2, x = a - 2, x = a + 2$. To obtain two bumps we manipulate a and see that

- $-2 = a - 2 \Rightarrow a = 0 \Rightarrow u_{0,\gamma}(x, 1) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{-(x+2)^2} - e^{-(x+2)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2} - e^{-(x-2)^2}) = 0$

- $-2 = a + 2 \Rightarrow a = -4 \Rightarrow u_{-4,\gamma}(x, 1) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{-(x+2)^2} - e^{-(x+6)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2} - e^{-(x+2)^2}) = \frac{1}{2}(-e^{-(x+6)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2})$
- $2 = a - 2 \Rightarrow a = 4 \Rightarrow u_{-4,\gamma}(x, 1) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{-(x+2)^2} - e^{-(x-2)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2} - e^{-(x-6)^2}) = \frac{1}{2}(-e^{-(x-6)^2} + e^{-(x+2)^2})$
- $-2 = a - 2 \Rightarrow a = 0 \Rightarrow u_{0,\gamma}(x, 1) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{-(x+2)^2} - e^{-(x+2)^2} + e^{-(x-2)^2} - e^{-(x-2)^2}) = 0$

We can see that the solution has only two “bumps” in the cases $a = \pm 4$, so we conclude that the desired couples of (a, γ) are

$$\begin{cases} \gamma = -1 \\ a = -4 \end{cases} \quad \vee \quad \begin{cases} \gamma = -1 \\ a = 4 \end{cases}$$

Exercise 2

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n (n \geq 2)$ be a bounded smooth domain, let a be a measurable function in Ω . Consider the problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = a(x)u^3 & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

Under which assumptions on the space dimension n can we write a variational formulation of problem (P) in $H_0^1(\Omega)$?

For each of these dimensions find the most general assumptions on a that allow to write the variational formulation.

Finally, write the variational formulation.

First, a quick reminder on Sobolev embedding, which will be very useful a.e. in this document

Remark 2

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ open with $\partial\Omega \in \text{Lip}$, $s \geq 0$,

$$H^s(\Omega) \subset \begin{cases} L^p(\Omega) & \forall 2 \leq p \leq 2^* & \text{if } n > 2s \\ L^p(\Omega) & \forall 2 \leq p < \infty & \text{if } n = 2s \\ C^0(\bar{\Omega}) & & \text{if } n < 2s \end{cases}$$

Increasing s increases the regularity, while increasing n decreases it.

The exponent 2^* is called critical exponent and is defined as $2^* := \frac{2n}{n-2s}$.

If Ω is bounded, all these embeddings are compact except $H^s(\Omega) \subset L^{2^*}$ when $n > s$.

Since we want to know the variational formulation in H_0^1 we have $s = 1$ and need to check $n = 2, n \geq 3$. Remember a variational formulation makes sense if $\int_{\Omega} f v < \infty$.

$n = 2$. In this case we have $u^3, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, so by Sobolev embedding we know $u^3, v \in L^p(\Omega)$ for $2 \leq p < \infty$.

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \right| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |a(x)| |u^3| |v| dx \stackrel{\text{Holder}}{\leq} \left(\int_{\Omega} |a(x)|^r \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |u^3|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |v|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} < \infty.$$

To use Holder inequality we need to find r, p, q such that $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. We see that,

$$\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1 \iff a(x) \in L^r(\Omega) \quad \text{with } r > 1$$

$n \geq 3$. In this case we have $u^3, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, so by Sobolev embedding we know $u^3, v \in L^p(\Omega)$ for $2 \leq p \leq 2^*$. We proceed as before, using Holder inequality, but decide to use $p = \frac{2^*}{3}$ and $q = \frac{1}{2^*}$.

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \right| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |a(x)| |u^3| |v| dx \stackrel{\text{Holder}}{\leq} \left(\int_{\Omega} |a(x)|^r \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |u|^{2^*} \right)^{\frac{3}{2^*}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |v|^{2^*} \right)^{\frac{1}{2^*}} < \infty.$$

In this case Holder inequality gives us

$$\frac{1}{r} + \frac{3}{2^*} + \frac{1}{2^*} = 1 \iff \frac{1}{r} = 1 - \frac{4}{2^*} \iff r = \frac{2^* - 4}{2^*}$$

Substituting $2^* = \frac{2n}{n-2}$ we get $r = \frac{n}{-n+4}$. Since $r > 0$ we need $n < 4$. In this case we have $a(x) \in L^3(\Omega)$ for $n = 3$, but also $a(x) \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ for $n = 4$.

At this point we can write the weak formulation of the problem. We multiply the equation by a test function $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} -\Delta u v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

We integrate by parts the left-hand side and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

This is the weak formulation of the problem. This is well posed if

Dimension	Assumptions on $a(x)$
$n = 2$	$a \in L^r(\Omega), r > 1$
$n = 3$	$a \in L^3(\Omega)$
$n = 4$	$a \in L^\infty(\Omega)$
$n \geq 5$	No variational formulation

Exercise 3

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded open set of class C^1 , and let u be a sufficiently regular solution of the problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t - \Delta u = 0 & \Omega \times (0, \infty) \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = \alpha(x) & x \in \Omega \end{cases}$$

Study monotonicity/boundedness properties of the energy $E_u(t) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx$.

The energy functional is defined as $E_u(t) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx = \|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$. We want to study its behavior over time, so we need to compute its derivative with respect to time.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} E_u(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx = \int_{\Omega} \frac{d}{dt} |\nabla u|^2 dx = \int_{\Omega} 2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla u_t dx = \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} 2 \underbrace{u \cdot \nu}_{=0} u_t - \int_{\Omega} 2 \Delta u u_t dx = - \int_{\Omega} 2 (\Delta u)^2 dx \leq 0. \end{aligned} \Rightarrow E \text{ is non-increasing}$$

We see that the energy is non-increasing, since we obtain a positive quantity with a negative sign. Now we want to study the boundedness of the energy. We start by multiplying the equation by u

$$\int_{\Omega} u_t u dx - \int_{\Omega} \Delta u u dx = 0$$

Integrating by parts the second term we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} u_t u dx - \int_{\partial\Omega} u \nabla u \cdot \nu dS + \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u)^2 dx = 0$$

Since $u = 0$ on the boundary we have

$$\int_{\Omega} u_t u dx = - \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u)^2 dx$$

We can rewrite the energy as

$$E_u(t) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx = - \int_{\Omega} u_t u dx = - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (u^2)_t dx$$

Since the energy is non-increasing, we have that $E_u(t) \leq E_u(0) \forall t \geq 0$, so we have

$$E_u(t) = - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (u^2)_t dx \leq - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (u(x, 0)^2)_t dx = - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \alpha(x)^2 dx$$

Since $\alpha(x)$ is bounded (is a function in H_0^1) we have that the energy is bounded too.

Exercise 4

Let $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ be a Banach space, and let $u \in C^1([0, T]; X)$. Using the following abstract version of the *Fundamental Theorem of Calculus*:

$$\int_0^T u'(t) dt = u(T) - u(0)$$

prove that $\Lambda_{u'} = (\Lambda_u)' \in \mathcal{D}(0, T; X)$ where

$$\Lambda_f(\varphi) = \int_0^T \varphi(t) f(t) dt \quad \forall f \in L^1(0, T; X)$$

By the definition of distributional derivative we have

$$(\Lambda_u(\varphi))' = -\Lambda_u(\varphi') \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(0, T)$$

where

$$\Lambda_u(\varphi)' = - \int_0^T \varphi'(t) u(t) dt$$

We can integrate by parts the above expression

$$(\Lambda_u(\varphi))' = - \int_0^T \varphi'(t) u(t) dt = \underbrace{-\varphi(t) u(t) \Big|_0^T}_{=0} + \int_0^T \varphi(t) u'(t) dt = \int_0^T \varphi(t) u'(t) dt = \Lambda_{u'}(\varphi)$$

We have shown that $\Lambda_{u'} = (\Lambda_u)'$ in $\mathcal{D}(0, T; X)$.

1.2 July 2021

Exercise 1

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded open set of class C^∞ , let $f \in L^2(\Omega)$. Consider the Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} 2\partial_x^2 u + 3\partial_y^2 u + 2\partial_{xy} u = f & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

- (1) Prove that (P) admits a unique solution $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$.
- (2) What is the minimum $m \in \mathbb{N}$ for which $f \in H^m(\Omega)$ implies $u \in H^5(\Omega)$?

We can rewrite the equation in the form $\operatorname{div}(A\nabla u)$ with $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$. Let's check if A is the correct matrix.

$$\operatorname{div}(A\nabla u) = \operatorname{div} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} \right) = \operatorname{div} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 2u_x + u_y \\ u_x + 3u_y \end{pmatrix} \right) = 2u_{xx} + 3u_{yy} + 2u_{xy}$$

Our Hilbert triplet is $H_0^1(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega) \subset H^{-1}(\Omega)$. We define $V = H_0^1(\Omega)$, $H = L^2(\Omega)$, $V' = H^{-1}(\Omega)$. We can now write the weak formulation of the problem. We multiply the equation by a test function $v \in V$ and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div}(A\nabla u) v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in V$$

We integrate by parts the left-hand side and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} A\nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in V$$

This is the weak formulation of the problem. Now we use Lax-Milgram theorem to prove the existence and uniqueness of the solution. We need to check the coercivity and boundedness of the bilinear form. We have that the bilinear form is

$$a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} A\nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx$$

A bilinear form is continuous if there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$|a(u, v)| \leq C \|u\|_V \|v\|_V$$

Remark 1

In $H_0^1(\Omega)$ we have the norm $\|u\|_V = \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}$

We write the bilinear form explicitly and bound it

$$|a(u, v)| = \left| \int_{\Omega} A\nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx \right| \leq \int_{\Omega} |A| |\nabla u| |\nabla v| \, dx \leq |A| \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} = |A| \|u\|_V \|v\|_V$$

We have that the bilinear form is continuous. We need to check the coercivity of the bilinear form. A bilinear form is coercive if there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that

$$a(u, u) \geq c \|u\|_V^2$$

We write the bilinear form explicitly

$$a(u, u) = \int_{\Omega} A\nabla u \cdot \nabla u \, dx = \int_{\Omega} |A| |\nabla u|^2 \, dx = |A| \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^2 \geq \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^2 = \|u\|_V^2$$

We have that the bilinear form is coercive. By Lax-Milgram theorem we have that the problem admits a unique solution $u \in V$.

The second request is about the minimum m such that $f \in H^m(\Omega)$ implies $u \in H^5(\Omega)$.

Remark 2

We know that if $f \in H^m(\Omega)$ then $u \in H^{m+2}(\Omega)$.

We have that $f \in H^m(\Omega)$ implies $u \in H^{m+2}(\Omega)$, so we need $m+2 \geq 5 \Rightarrow m \geq 3$. The minimum m is 3.

Exercise 2

Find solitary waves for the problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t - u_{xx} - u^2 = 0 & \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) & x \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

Moreover, discuss mass and momentum conservation for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P).

Quick reminder about the solitary waves for parabolic equations.

Remark 3

In the case of a parabolic equation, we have that the solution $u(x, t) = g(x + ct)$ where c is the speed of the wave.

We are working with solution of the form $u(x, t) = g(x + ct)$, so we substitute this solution in the equation and obtain

$$cg'(x + ct) - g''(x + ct) - (g'(x + ct))^2 = 0 \Rightarrow cg'(x + ct) - g''(x + ct) = (g'(x + ct))^2$$

We perform a change of variable $s = x + ct$ and obtain

$$cg'(s) - g''(s) = (g'(s))^2$$

At this point we are working with an ODE, so we can solve it. We start by defining $y(s) = g'(s)$ and obtain

$$cy(s) - y'(s) = y(s)^2 \Rightarrow y'(s) = y(s)^2 - cy(s)$$

To solve this we introduce

$$z(s) = \frac{1}{y(s)} \Rightarrow z'(s) = -\frac{y'(s)}{y(s)^2}$$

We substitute $y'(s)$ and obtain

$$z'(s) = -\frac{cy(s) - y(s)^2}{y(s)^2} = -c\frac{1}{y(s)} + 1 \Rightarrow z'(s) + cz(s) = 1$$

Solving this ODE we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z(s) &= e^{-cs} \left(k + \int_0^s e^{ct} dt \right) = e^{-cs} \left(k + \frac{e^{ct}}{c} \Big|_0^s \right) = e^{-cs} \left(k + \frac{e^{cs} - 1}{c} \right) = ke^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c} - \frac{e^{-cs}}{c} = \\ &= e^{-cs} \left(k - \frac{1}{c} \right) + \frac{1}{c} = k_0 e^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c} \end{aligned}$$

At this point we use the definition of $z(s)$ and obtain

$$y(s) = \frac{1}{z(s)} = \frac{1}{k_0 e^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c}} = \frac{ce^{cs}}{ck_0 + e^{cs}} = \frac{ce^{cs}}{k_1 + e^{cs}}$$

We have found the solution for $g'(s)$, so we can integrate it to find $g(s)$

$$g(s) = \int_0^s \frac{ce^{cs}}{k_1 + e^{cs}} ds = \log(k_1 + e^{cs}) + k_2$$

We have found the solution for $g(s) = \log(k_1 + e^{cs}) + k_2$.

Now we can discuss mass and momentum conservation for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P). We start by defining the mass and momentum of the solution

$$M(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx$$

$$\mathcal{M}(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^2 dx$$

We compute the derivative of the mass

$$M'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{xx}(x, t) + u_x(x, t)^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{(u_x)_x}_{\text{div. form}=0} + u_x^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^2 dx \geq 0$$

We do not have mass conservation, since mass is not constant over time.

We compute the derivative of the momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u(x, t)u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_{xx} + 2u(x, t)u_x^2 dx = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_{xx} + \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_x^2 dx = 2 \left(\cancel{uu_x} \Big|_{\mathbb{R}} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^2 dx \right) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_x^2 dx = \\ &= 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(u-1)u_x^2 dx \end{aligned}$$

As we can see, the momentum is not conserved either.

Exercise 3

By using the Helmholtz-Weyl theorem and the variational formulation of the Stokes problem, explain how to derive the role of pressure.

Remark 4

We introduce three spaces:

- $\mathbf{G}_1 := \{f \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot f = 0, \gamma_\nu f = 0\}$
- $\mathbf{G}_2 := \{f \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot f = 0, \exists g \in H^1(\Omega) \text{ s.t. } f = \nabla g\}$
- $\mathbf{G}_3 := \{f \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) \mid \exists g \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ s.t. } f = \nabla g\}$

We also introduce the space $\mathbf{V} := \{f \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) \mid \nabla \cdot f = 0\}$ which is the space of divergence-free functions. We know that \mathbf{V} is dense in \mathbf{G}_1 .

A famous result by Helmholtz and Weyl states that the spaces $\mathbf{G}_1, \mathbf{G}_2, \mathbf{G}_3$ are mutually orthogonal in $\mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$ and that $\mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) = \mathbf{G}_1 \oplus \mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3$.

We start by writing the strong formulation of the Stokes problem with $f \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$

$$\begin{cases} -\eta \Delta u + \nabla p = f & \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot u = 0 & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (\text{S})$$

Then we multiply the equation by a test function $v \in \mathbf{V}$ to obtain the weak formulation

$$\int_{\Omega} -\eta \nabla u : \nabla v + \int_{\Omega} p \nabla \cdot v = \int_{\Omega} f v \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{V}$$

By the Helmholtz-Weyl theorem we know that $\nabla p \in \mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3$, so when we multiply the equation by a test function $v \in \mathbf{V}$ we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla p \cdot v = 0$$

since \mathbf{V} is dense in \mathbf{G}_1 and \mathbf{G}_1 is orthogonal to $\mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3$. We can now write the variational formulation of the Stokes problem

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} -\eta \nabla u : \nabla v = \int_{\Omega} f v \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{V}$$

Now we observe that for every $f \in \mathbf{L}^2$ the function $v \mapsto \int_{\Omega} f v$ is a bounded linear functional on \mathbf{V} . Then, by Lax-Milgram corollary we obtain

$$\forall f \in \mathbf{L}^2 \quad \exists! u \in \mathbf{V} \text{ s.t. } \int_{\Omega} -\eta \nabla u : \nabla v = \int_{\Omega} f v \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{V}$$

Also, thanks to elliptic regularity we have that $u \in \mathbf{H}^2(\Omega)$, so we have

$$\forall f \in \mathbf{L}^2 \quad \exists! u \in \mathbf{H}^2 \cap \mathbf{V} \text{ s.t. } \int_{\Omega} -\eta \nabla u : \nabla v = \int_{\Omega} f v \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{V}$$

Since \mathbf{V} is dense in \mathbf{G}_1 we rewrite it as

$$\forall f \in \mathbf{L}^2 \quad \exists! u \in \mathbf{H}^2 \cap \mathbf{V} \text{ s.t. } \int_{\Omega} (\eta \Delta u + f) v = 0 \quad \forall v \in \mathbf{G}_1$$

As for ∇p , this means that $(\eta\Delta u + f) \in \mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3$. Thanks to this finding we can write

$$\exists! p \in \mathbf{H}^1/\mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } -\nabla p = \eta\Delta u + f$$

where the space \mathbf{H}^1/\mathbb{R} is the space of functions in \mathbf{H}^1 up to a constant.

So we have $\underbrace{-\eta\Delta u}_{\in \mathbf{G}_1 \oplus \mathbf{G}_2} + \underbrace{\nabla p}_{\in \mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3} = \underbrace{f}_{\in \mathbf{G}_1 \oplus \mathbf{G}_2 \oplus \mathbf{G}_3} \in \mathbf{L}^2$. This means that the role of the pressure is to satisfy the equation projected on \mathbf{G}_2 .

1.3 September 2021

Exercise 1

Find solitary waves for the problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t - u_{xxx} = 0 & \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) & x \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

Moreover, discuss mass and momentum conservation for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P).

We start by finding the solitary waves for the problem. We know that the solution is of the form $u(x, t) = g(x + ct)$, so we substitute this solution in the equation and obtain

$$cg'(x + ct) - g'''(x + ct) = 0 \Rightarrow cg'(x + ct) = g'''(x + ct)$$

We perform a change of variable $s = x + ct$ and obtain

$$cg'(s) = g'''(s)$$

At this point we are working with an ODE, so we can solve it. We start by defining $p(l)$ as the characteristic polynomial of the ODE

$$p(l) = l^3 - cl = l(l^2 - c) = 0$$

and now study the behavior of the roots of the polynomial when $c > 0$, $c = 0$, $c < 0$.

$c > 0$. We have three real roots $l = 0, \sqrt{c}, -\sqrt{c}$. The general solution is

$$g(s) = k_1 + k_2 e^{\sqrt{c}s} + k_3 e^{-\sqrt{c}s}$$

$c = 0$. We have a triple root $l = 0$. The general solution is

$$g(s) = k_1 + k_2 s + k_3 s^2$$

$c < 0$. We have a complex conjugate pair of roots $l = 0, \pm i\sqrt{-c}$. The general solution is

$$g(s) = k_1 + k_2 \cos(\sqrt{-c}s) + k_3 \sin(\sqrt{-c}s)$$

We have found the solution for $g(s)$. Now we can discuss mass and momentum conservation. Defining the mass and momentum of the solution as

$$M(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx$$

$$\mathcal{M}(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^2 dx$$

Starting from the mass, we take its derivative

$$M'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{xxx}(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{(u_x x)_x}_{\text{div. form}=0} dx = 0$$

We have mass conservation, since mass is constant over time.

We compute the derivative of the momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u(x, t)u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_{xxx} dx = 2 \left(\cancel{\int_{\mathbb{R}} uu_{xx} dx} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x u_{xx} dx \right) = \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{(u_x^2)_x}_{\text{div. form}=0} dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We have also momentum conservation.

Exercise 2

Let $\Omega := B(0,1) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ with $n \geq 2$, and let $f \in H^3(\Omega)$. Justify or confute the following statements:

- (1) one can surely conclude that $f \in C(\Omega)$;
- (2) one can surely conclude that $\gamma_2(f) \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$;
- (3) one can surely exclude that $\gamma_0(f) \in H^1(\partial\Omega)$;
- (4) if $n = 8$, then $f \in L^{15/2}(\Omega)$.

We start by recalling the Sobolev embeddings with $2s = 6$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 H^3(\Omega) \subset C(\Omega) & & \text{if } n < 6 \\
 H^3(\Omega) \subset L^p(\Omega) & \forall 2 \leq p < \infty & \text{if } n = 6 \\
 H^3(\Omega) \subset L^p(\Omega) & \forall 2 \leq p \leq \frac{2n}{n-6} & \text{if } n > 6
 \end{array}$$

Then we check the statements

- (1) In this case we have that $f \in C(\Omega)$ if $n < 6$. Since $n \geq 2$ we can surely conclude that $f \in C(\Omega)$.
- (2) In this case we recall that $\gamma_j(f) \in H^{s-j-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. In the case of $f \in H^3(\Omega)$ we have that $\gamma_2(f) \in H^{3-2-1/2}(\partial\Omega) = H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. We can surely conclude that $\gamma_2(f) \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$.
- (3) In this case we proceed as before, but with $j = 0$. We have that $\gamma_0(f) \in H^{3-0-1/2}(\partial\Omega) = H^{5/2}(\partial\Omega)$. Since $H^{5/2} \subset H^1$ we cannot surely exclude that $\gamma_0(f) \in H^1(\partial\Omega)$.
- (4) In this case we have $n = 8$ so we need to check if $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ with $2 \leq p \leq 2^*$. The critical exponent is $p = \frac{2 \cdot 8}{8-6} = 8$. Since $15/2 < 8$ we can surely conclude that $f \in L^{15/2}(\Omega)$.

Exercise 3

Let $\ell > 0$ and consider the eigenvalue problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta^2 u + \lambda u_{xx} = 0 & (0, \pi) \times (-\ell, \ell) \\ u = \Delta u = 0 & \partial[(0, \pi) \times (-\ell, \ell)] \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

Prove that $\lambda = 1$ is not an eigenvalue of (P). For which values of ℓ is the least eigenvalue double?

For this problem we know that the eigenvalues of the problem are of the form

$$\lambda_{m,n} = m^2 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{\ell^2} \quad m, n \in \mathbb{N} \iff \begin{cases} -\Delta u = \lambda u & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \text{ has a non-trivial solution}$$

The space of eigenfunctions is given by

$$EF = \left\{ u_{m,n}(x, y) = \sin(mx) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{\ell}\right) \mid m, n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

Now we can rewrite the Laplacian operator as

$$\Delta u_{m,n} = -\lambda_{m,n} u_{m,n}$$

While the two derivatives are

$$u_x = -m \cos(mx) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{\ell}\right) \quad u_{xx} = -m^2 \sin(mx) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{\ell}\right)$$

so $u_{xx} = -m^2 u_{m,n}$. As for the bi-Laplacian operator we have

$$\Delta^2 u_{m,n} = -\Delta \lambda_{m,n} u_{m,n} = -\lambda_{m,n}^2 u_{m,n}$$

We can now substitute the derivatives in the equation and obtain

$$-\lambda_{m,n}^2 u_{m,n} + \lambda m^2 u_{m,n} = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\lambda_{m,n}^2}{m^2}$$

We have obtained an explicit expression for λ

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{m^2} \left(m^2 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{\ell^2} \right)^2$$

Putting this expression equal to 1 we obtain

$$m^2 = \left(m^2 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{\ell^2} \right)^2 \Rightarrow m = m^2 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{\ell^2} \Rightarrow m - m^2 = \frac{n^2\pi^2}{\ell^2}$$

Then, since $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$n^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{\ell^2} (m - m^2) > 0 \Rightarrow (m - m^2) > 0 \Rightarrow m(m - 1) < 0 \Rightarrow m \in (0, 1)$$

Since $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have that this is impossible, so $\lambda = 1$ is not an eigenvalue of (P).

Now we want to find the values of ℓ for which the least eigenvalue is double. To do so we fix $n = 1$, since we know that the smallest eigenvalue is $\lambda_{1,1} = \left(1 + \frac{\pi^2}{\ell^2}\right)^2$, and obtain

$$\lambda_{m,n}^2 \geq \lambda_{m,1}^2 = \left(m^2 + \frac{\pi^2}{\ell^2} \right)^2 \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$$

Since we are looking for the least eigenvalue, we are looking at a minimization problem.

$$\min_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_{m,1}^2 = \min_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \left(m + \frac{\pi^2}{\ell^2 m} \right)^2 = \mu^*$$

This is the same as minimizing the function $f(x) = (x + \frac{a}{x})^2$ with $a = \frac{\pi}{\ell}$. What we know about f ?

- $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- $f \in C^\infty$
- $f'(x) \geq 0 \iff x \geq a$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$

If $a > 1$, $a \in \mathbb{N}$ means that μ^* can have multiplicity greater than 1. We choose $1 < a < 2$ so that $(\ell < \pi < 2\ell)$ and $\mu^* = \min \{ \lambda_{1,1}^2, \lambda_{2,1}^2 \}$. We define $\mu_{m,n} = \lambda_{m,n}^2$ and we have

$$\mu_{1,1} = \left(1 + \frac{\pi^2}{\ell^2} \right)^2 \quad \mu_{2,1} = \left(2 + \frac{\pi^2}{2\ell^2} \right)^2.$$

To have them ordered $\mu_{1,1} < \mu_{2,1} \iff \pi \leq \ell\sqrt{2}$. Then we have three cases:

- $\ell \leq \pi < \ell\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow \mu^* = \mu_{1,1}$ which is simple;
- $\ell\sqrt{2} < \pi < 2\ell \Rightarrow \mu^* = \mu_{2,1}$ which is simple;
- $\pi = \ell\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow \mu^* = \mu_{1,1} = \mu_{2,1}$ which is double.

So, the value of ℓ for which the least eigenvalue is double is $\ell = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}}$.

1.4 January 2022

Exercise 1

For the Korteweg-de Vries equation

$$\begin{cases} u_t + u_{xxx} + 6uu_x = 0 & \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) & x \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

prove that the “energy” $E(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x^2 - 2u^3) dx$ is conserved for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P).

We start by computing the derivative of the energy

$$E'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x^2 - 2u^3) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_x u_{xt} - 6u^2 u_t dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_x u_{xt} dx - 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 u_t dx$$

Dividing the problem in two parts we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_x u_{xt} dx &= \cancel{2u_x u_t \Big|_{\mathbb{R}}} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_{xx} u_t dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_{xx} (-u_{xxx} - 6uu_x) dx = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_{xx} u_{xxx} + 12u \underbrace{u_x u_{xx}}_{=\left(\frac{u_x^2}{2}\right)_x} dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{(u_{xx}^2)_x}_{=0} + \cancel{12u \frac{u_x^2}{2} \Big|_{\mathbb{R}}} - 12 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x \frac{u_x^2}{2} dx = -6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx \end{aligned}$$

For the second part we have

$$\begin{aligned} 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 u_t dx &= 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 (-u_{xxx} - 6uu_x) dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} 6u^2 u_{xxx} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} 36 \underbrace{u^3 u_x}_{=\left(\frac{u^4}{4}\right)_x} dx = \\ &= \cancel{-6u^2 u_{xx} \Big|_{\mathbb{R}}} + 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2uu_x u_{xx} - 9 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{(u^4)_x}_{=0} dx = 12 \int_{\mathbb{R}} uu_x u_{xx} dx = \\ &= 12 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u \left(\frac{u^2}{2}\right)_x dx = \cancel{6uu^2 \Big|_{\mathbb{R}}} - 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x u_x^2 dx = -6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx \end{aligned}$$

To recap, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E'(t) &= 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x u_{xt} dx - 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 u_t dx \\ 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x u_{xt} dx &= -6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx \\ 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 u_t dx &= -6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx \end{aligned}$$

We can now substitute these results in the derivative of the energy

$$E'(t) = -6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx + 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx = 0$$

We have that the energy is conserved for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P).

Exercise 2

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded domain of class C^1 , and let $f \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$. Moreover, let $u_0 \in H^1(\Omega)$ and $u_1 \in L^2(\Omega)$. Prove that, for every $\gamma > 0$, the Galerkin method can be applied to the problem

$$\begin{cases} u_{tt} - \Delta u + \gamma u = f & \Omega \times (0, T) \\ \partial_\nu u = 0 & \partial\Omega \times (0, T) \\ u = u_0 & \Omega \times \{0\} \\ u_t = u_1 & \Omega \times \{0\} \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

which, therefore, admits a unique solution.

We start by writing the weak formulation of the problem, choosing adequate function spaces. We define the spaces

$$V = H^1(\Omega) \subseteq H = L^2(\Omega) \quad V' = (H^1(\Omega))'$$

We also need to introduce the space of weakly continuous functions over $[0, T]$.

Remark 1

Let H be a Hilbert space. The space of weakly continuous functions over $[0, T]$ is defined as

$$C_w^0([0, T]; H) = \left\{ u \in L^\infty(0, T; H) \mid \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} (u(t) - u(t_0), v)_H = 0, \quad \forall t_0 \in [0, T], \forall v \in H \right\}$$

We can now write the weak formulation of the problem (P), by multiplying the equation by a test function $v \in V$ and integrating over Ω

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} f(t)v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} u_{tt}v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta u + \gamma u)v \, dx = \\ &= \int_{\Omega} u_{tt}v \, dx - \int_{\partial\Omega} \cancel{\partial_\nu uv} \, d\sigma + \int_{\Omega} [\nabla u \cdot \nabla v + \gamma uv] \, dx = \int_{\Omega} u_{tt}v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \underbrace{\nabla u \cdot \nabla v + \gamma uv}_{B(u,v)} \, dx \end{aligned}$$

To write it more compactly we have

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(u, v)_{L^2} + B(u, v) = (f, v)_{L^2} \quad \forall v \in V$$

Another important abstract result is the following

Remark 2

If $B(u, v)$ is continuous and coercive, $u_0 \in V$ and $u_1 \in H$ and $f \in L^2(0, T; V')$, then we know that

$$\exists! u \in C_w^0([0, T]; V) \cap C^0([0, T]; H) \text{ with } u_t \in C_w^0([0, T]; H), \quad u_{tt} \in L^2(0, T; V') \text{ for (P).}$$

So, we need to check if $B(u, v)$ is continuous and coercive. We start by checking the continuity of $B(u, v)$

$$\begin{aligned} |B(u, v)| &\leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u \cdot \nabla v| + |\gamma||u||v| \, dx \stackrel{\text{CS} + \text{H}}{\leq} \underbrace{\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}}_{\leq \|u\|_V} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} + |\gamma| \|u\|_{L^2} \|v\|_{L^2} \leq \\ &\leq (1 + |\gamma|) \|u\|_V \|v\|_V \leq C \|u\|_V \|v\|_V \end{aligned}$$

We have that $B(u, v)$ is continuous. We now check if it is coercive

$$B(u, u) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 + |\gamma||u|^2 = (1 + |\gamma|) \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\nabla u|^2 + |u|^2 \geq (1 + |\gamma|) \|u\|_V^2$$

We need that $\alpha \geq 0$ to obtain $B(u, u) \geq \min\{\alpha, 1\} \|u\|_V^2$. Since $\gamma > 0$ by hypothesis, we have that $B(u, v)$ is coercive. We can now apply the abstract result and conclude that the solution of (P) exists and is unique.

Exercise 3

Let $\Omega := B(0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and let

$$f(x) := \frac{e^{|x|} - 1}{|x|^\alpha}, \quad \text{with } \alpha > 0$$

Find the values of α for which $f \in H^1(\Omega)$.

To check that a function is in $H^1(\Omega)$ we need that

Remark 3

$$H^1(\Omega) = \{f \in L^2(\Omega) \mid \nabla f \in L^2(\Omega)\}$$

We start by checking if $f \in L^2(\Omega)$, so we check $f(x) \in L^2(\Omega) \iff \int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty$.

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^2 dx = \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{e^{|x|} - 1}{|x|^\alpha} \right|^2 dx$$

Since our domain is a ball, we can use spherical coordinates to compute the integral

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{e^{|x|} - 1}{|x|^\alpha} \right|^2 dx &= \int_0^1 \int_{\{\|x\|=\rho\}} \left| \frac{e^{\rho} - 1}{\rho^\alpha} \right|^2 d\sigma d\rho = \\ &= \sigma_n \int_0^1 \left| \frac{e^{\rho} - 1}{\rho^\alpha} \right|^2 \rho^{n-1} d\rho = \sigma_n \int_0^1 \left| \frac{(e^{\rho} - 1)^2}{\rho^{2\alpha-n+1}} \right| d\rho \end{aligned}$$

At this point we know

$$e^{\rho} - 1 \xrightarrow{\rho \rightarrow 0} \rho \Rightarrow \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\rho^2}{\rho^{2\alpha-n+1}} \right| d\rho < \infty \iff 2\alpha - n + 1 - 2 < 1 \iff \alpha < \frac{n+2}{2}$$

So we have that $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ if $\alpha < \frac{n+2}{2}$. We now need to check if $\nabla f \in L^2(\Omega)$. We start by computing the gradient of f

$$\begin{aligned} \partial x_i f &= \frac{e^{|x|}|x|^\alpha - (e^{|x|} - 1)\alpha|x|^{\alpha-1}x_i}{|x|^{2\alpha}} \frac{x_i}{|x|} = \frac{e^{|x|}|x| - (e^{|x|} - 1)\alpha}{|x|^{2\alpha+1}} \frac{x_i}{|x|} \\ \|\nabla f\|^2 &= \frac{\| |x|e^{|x|} - \alpha e^{|x|} + \alpha \|^2}{|x|^{\alpha+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Now we need to check if this function is in $L^2(\Omega)$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \|\nabla f\|^2 dx &= \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{\| |x|e^{|x|} - \alpha e^{|x|} + \alpha \|^2}{|x|^{2\alpha+1}} \right) dx = \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_{\{\|x\|=\rho\}} \left(\frac{\rho e^{\rho} - \alpha e^{\rho} + \alpha}{\rho^{\alpha+1}} \right)^2 d\sigma d\rho = \sigma_n \int_0^1 \frac{(\rho e^{\rho} - \alpha e^{\rho} + \alpha)^2}{\rho^{2\alpha+2}} \rho^{n-1} d\rho = \end{aligned}$$

We can now check if this integral is finite

$$\begin{aligned} \rho e^{\rho} - \alpha e^{\rho} + \alpha &\xrightarrow{\rho \rightarrow 0} \rho - \alpha + \alpha = \rho \\ \Rightarrow \int_0^1 \frac{\rho^2}{\rho^{2\alpha+2-n+1}} d\rho < \infty &\iff 2\alpha + 2 - n + 1 - 2 < 1 \iff \alpha < \frac{n}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Now that we have checked that $\nabla f \in L^2(\Omega)$ and $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ we only need to check that the weak derivative of f exists, since if it exists it is equal to the classical one. We have that the weak derivative of f exists if

$$\int_{\Omega} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = - \int_{\Omega} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \quad \text{E1}$$

To check that this condition is satisfied we need to cut off the singularity of f in the origin. We can do this by defining

$$\Omega_{\varepsilon} = B(0, 1) \setminus B(0, \varepsilon) = B_1 \setminus B_{\varepsilon} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \varepsilon < \|x\| < 1\}$$

Since $f \in C^1(\Omega_{\varepsilon})$ we can apply the divergence theorem to the weak derivative definition and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx - \int_{\partial \Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma \quad \text{E2}$$

We want check that taking the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ in (E2) we obtain (E1). To do so we need to check that the boundary term goes to zero, and the other two terms are equal at the ones in (E1). We start with the first term

$$\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} \, dx$$

We want to claim that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx$$

To do so we need to swap the limit and the integral. We see that

- $f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} f \partial x_i \varphi$ a.e. in B_1
- $|f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}}| \leq \underbrace{|f|}_{\in L^p(B_1)} \underbrace{|\partial x_i \varphi|}_{\in L^q(B_1)} \in L^1(B_1)$

We can now apply the Dominated Convergence Theorem and obtain the desired result. The same process can be applied to

$$\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} \partial x_i f \varphi \chi_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}} \, dx$$

Then we have shown that

$$\int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{\partial \Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma + \int_{B_1} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx$$

It is clear that we need to check that the boundary term goes to zero. Since we know that $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq B_{\varepsilon}$.

$$\int_{\partial \Omega_{\varepsilon}} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma = \int_{\cancel{\partial B_1}} \cancel{f \varphi \nu_i} \, d\sigma + \int_{\partial B_{\varepsilon}} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\partial B_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i d\sigma \right| &\leq \int_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |f| |\varphi| \underbrace{|\nu_i|}_{=1} d\sigma \leq \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \int_{\{\|x\|=\varepsilon\}} |f| d\sigma = \\ &\max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon^\alpha} \mu\|x\| = \varepsilon \leq \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon^\alpha} \varepsilon^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

We have that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon^\alpha} \varepsilon^{n-1} = 0 \iff \alpha - 1 - n + 1 > 1 \iff \alpha < n + 1$$

Quick recap of the values of α for which $f \in H^1(\Omega)$

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \alpha \in (0, \frac{n+2}{2}) & f \in L^2(\Omega) \\ \alpha \in (0, \frac{n}{2}) & \nabla f \in L^2(\Omega) \\ \alpha \in (0, n+1) & \text{weak derivative of } f \text{ exists} \end{array}$$

Since all three conditions are necessary, we have that $\alpha \in (0, \min\{\frac{n+2}{2}, \frac{n}{2}, n+1\}) = (0, \frac{n}{2})$.

Exercise 4

Let $\Omega := (0, 2) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, and let

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} x & x \in (0, 1) \\ 1 & x \in [1, 2) \end{cases}$$

Find the values of m for which $f \in H^m(\Omega)$.

For a function to be in $H^m(\Omega)$ we need that its weak derivative exists up to order m and belongs to $L^2(\Omega)$.

Remark 4

$$H^m(\Omega) = \{f \in L^2(\Omega) \mid D^\alpha f \in L^2(\Omega) \quad \forall \alpha \leq m\}$$

We start by computing the classical derivatives of f

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in (0, 1) \\ 0 & x \in [1, 2) \end{cases} \quad f''(x) = f'''(x) = \dots = f^{(m)}(x) = 0 \quad \forall m \geq 2$$

Let's now check if $f \in L^2(\Omega)$.

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^2 dx = \int_0^1 x^2 dx + \int_1^2 1 dx = \frac{1}{3} + 2 - 1 = \frac{4}{3} < \infty \Rightarrow f \in L^2(\Omega)$$

Now check if, for $m = 1$, $f^{(m)} \in L^2(\Omega)$, since it is the only non-trivial derivative of f .

$$\int_{\Omega} |f'(x)|^2 dx = \int_0^1 1 dx = 1 < \infty \Rightarrow f' \in L^2(\Omega)$$

At this point let's see if the weak derivative of f exists. We need to check if

$$\int_{\Omega} f \varphi' dx = - \int_{\Omega} f' \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

Substituting both f and f' we have

$$\int_0^1 x \varphi' dx + \int_1^2 \varphi' dx = - \int_0^1 \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

Check by integrating by parts

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 x \varphi' dx &= x \varphi|_0^1 - \int_0^1 \varphi dx = \varphi(1) - \int_0^1 \varphi dx \\ \int_1^2 \varphi' dx &= \varphi|_1^2 = \varphi(2) - \varphi(1) \underset{\varphi \in (0,2)}{=} -\varphi(1) \end{aligned}$$

Let's put everything together

$$\int_{\Omega} f \varphi' dx = \varphi(1) - \int_0^1 \varphi dx - \varphi(1) = - \int_0^1 \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

We have shown that the weak derivative of f exists and is equal to the classical one. We have shown that $f \in H^1(\Omega)$.

Now let's see if the weak derivative of f' exists. We need to check if

$$\int_{\Omega} f' \varphi' dx = - \int_{\Omega} f'' \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

Substituting both f' and f'' we have

$$\int_0^1 \varphi' dx = - \int_0^1 0 dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

Computing both integrals we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \varphi' dx &= \varphi|_0^1 = \varphi(1) - \varphi(0) = \varphi(1) \\ \int_0^1 0 dx &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

As we can see the two integrals are not equal, so the weak derivative of f' does not exist. So the only weak derivative of f that exists is the first one, and we have shown that $f \in H^1(\Omega)$.

1.5 February 2022

Exercise 1

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n (n \geq 2)$ be a bounded smooth domain, let a be a measurable function in Ω . Consider the problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = a(x)u^5 & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

Under which assumptions on the space dimension n can we write a variational formulation of problem (P) in $H_0^1(\Omega)$?

For each of these dimensions find the most general assumptions on a that allow to write the variational formulation.

Finally, write the variational formulation.

Since we want to know the variational formulation in H_0^1 we have $s = 1$ and need to check $n = 2, n \geq 3$.

Remember a variational formulation makes sense if $\int_{\Omega} f v < \infty$.

$n = 2$. In this case we have $u^5, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, so by Sobolev embedding we know $u^5, v \in L^p(\Omega)$ for $2 \leq p < \infty$.

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^5 v \right| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |a(x)| |u^5| |v| dx \stackrel{\text{Holder}}{\leq} \left(\int_{\Omega} |a(x)|^r \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |u^5|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |v|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} < \infty.$$

To use Holder inequality we need to find r, p, q such that $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. We see that,

$$\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1 \iff a(x) \in L^r(\Omega) \quad \text{with } r > 1$$

$n \geq 3$. In this case we have $u^5, v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, so by Sobolev embedding we know $u^5, v \in L^p(\Omega)$ for $2 \leq p \leq 2^*$. We proceed as before, using Holder inequality, but decide to use $p = \frac{2^*}{5}$ and $q = \frac{1}{2^*}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^5 v \right| dx &\leq \int_{\Omega} |a(x)| |u^5| |v| dx \stackrel{\text{Holder}}{\leq} \\ &\leq \left(\int_{\Omega} |a(x)|^r \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |u|^{2^*} \right)^{\frac{5}{2^*}} \left(\int_{\Omega} |v|^{2^*} \right)^{\frac{1}{2^*}} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

In this case Holder inequality gives us

$$\frac{1}{r} + \frac{5}{2^*} + \frac{1}{2^*} = 1 \iff \frac{1}{r} = 1 - \frac{6}{2^*} \iff r = \frac{2^* - 6}{2^*}$$

Substituting $2^* = \frac{2n}{n-2}$ we get $r = \frac{n}{-2n+6}$. Since $r > 0$ we need $n < 3$. In this case we only have $a(x) \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ for $n = 3$.

At this point we can write the weak formulation of the problem. We multiply the equation by a test function $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} -\Delta u v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

We integrate by parts the left-hand side and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} a(x) u^3 v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

This is the weak formulation of the problem. This is well posed if

Dimension	Assumptions on $a(x)$
$n = 2$	$a \in L^r(\Omega), r > 1$
$n = 3$	$a \in L^\infty(\Omega)$
$n \geq 4$	No variational formulation

Exercise 2

Let $B = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| < 1\}$. For which values of $p \in [1, \infty)$ is the function

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-|x|^2}}{|x|^2}$$

in $L^p(B)$ and in $W^{1,p}(B)$?

The strategy for this exercise remain the same as before.

Remark 1

A function belong to $W^{1,p}(B)$ if its weak derivative exists and belongs to $L^p(B)$.

We start by checking if $f \in L^p(B)$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_B |f(x)|^p dx &= \int_B \left| \frac{e^{-|x|^2}}{|x|^2} \right|^p dx = \int_B \frac{e^{-|x|^2 p}}{|x|^{2p}} dx = \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_{\{|x|=\rho\}} \frac{e^{-\rho^2 p}}{\rho^{2p}} d\sigma d\rho = \sigma_n \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-\rho^2 p}}{\rho^{2p}} \rho^{n-1} d\rho \end{aligned}$$

Since $e^{-\rho^2 p} \xrightarrow{\rho \rightarrow 0} 1$ we have that the integral is finite if

$$\int_0^1 \left| \frac{1}{\rho^{2p}} \rho^{n-1} \right| d\rho < \infty \iff 2p - n + 1 < 1 \iff 1 \leq p < \frac{n}{2}$$

We have that $f \in L^p(B)$ if $p \in [1, \frac{n}{2})$. We now need to check if $f \in W^{1,p}(B)$. We start by computing the gradient of f

$$\partial x_i f = \frac{-2|x|e^{-|x|^2}|x|^2 - e^{-|x|^2}2|x|}{|x|^4} \frac{x_i}{|x|} = \frac{-2|x|^2e^{-|x|^2} - 2e^{-|x|^2}}{|x|^3} \frac{x_i}{|x|}$$

with

$$\|\nabla f\| = \frac{2e^{-|x|^2}(|x|^2 + 1)}{|x|^3}$$

Now we need to check if $\nabla f \in L^p(B)$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_B |\nabla f|^p dx &= \int_B \left| \frac{2e^{-|x|^2}(|x|^2 + 1)}{|x|^3} \right|^p dx = \int_B \frac{2^p e^{-|x|^2 p} (|x|^2 + 1)^p}{|x|^{-3p}} dx = \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_{\{|x|=\rho\}} \frac{2^p e^{-\rho^2 p} (\rho^2 + 1)^p}{\rho^{-3p}} d\sigma d\rho = \sigma_n \int_0^1 \frac{2^p e^{-\rho^2 p} (\rho^2 + 1)^p}{\rho^{-3p}} \rho^{n-1} d\rho \end{aligned}$$

Also in this case we have $e^{-\rho^2 p} \xrightarrow{\rho \rightarrow 0} 1$ and $\rho^2 + 1 \xrightarrow{\rho \rightarrow 0} 1$, so we need that

$$\int_0^1 \left| \frac{2(\rho^2 + 1)^p}{\rho^{-3p}} \rho^{n-1} \right| d\rho < \infty \iff 3p - n + 1 < 1 \iff 1 \leq p < \frac{n}{3}$$

Now that we have checked that $\nabla f \in L^2(\Omega)$ and $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ we only need to check that the weak derivative of f exists, since if it exists it is equal to the classical one. We have that the weak derivative of f exists if

$$\int_{\Omega} f \partial x_i \varphi dx = - \int_{\Omega} \partial x_i f \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \quad \text{E1}$$

To check that this condition is satisfied we need to cut off the singularity of f in the origin. We can do this by defining

$$\Omega_\varepsilon = B(0, 1) \setminus B(0, \varepsilon) = B_1 \setminus B_\varepsilon = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \varepsilon < \|x\| < 1\}$$

Since $f \in C^1(\Omega_\varepsilon)$ we can apply the divergence theorem to the weak derivative definition and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx - \int_{\partial \Omega_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma \quad \text{E2}$$

We want check that taking the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ in (E2) we obtain (E1). To do so we need to check that the boundary term goes to zero, and the other two terms are equal at the ones in (E1). We start with the first term

$$\int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \, dx$$

We want to claim that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx$$

To do so we need to swap the limit and the integral. We see that

- $f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} f \partial x_i \varphi$ a.e. in B_1
- $|f \partial x_i \varphi \chi_{\Omega_\varepsilon}| \leq \underbrace{|f|}_{\in L^p(B_1)} \underbrace{|\partial x_i \varphi|}_{\in L^q(B_1)} \in L^1(B_1)$

We can now apply the Dominated Convergence Theorem and obtain the desired result. The same process can be applied to

$$\int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx = \int_{B_1} \partial x_i f \varphi \chi_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \, dx$$

Then we have shown that

$$\int_{B_1} f \partial x_i \varphi \, dx = \int_{\partial \Omega_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma + \int_{B_1} \partial x_i f \varphi \, dx$$

It is clear that we need to check that the boundary term goes to zero. Since we know that $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq B_\varepsilon$.

$$\int_{\partial \Omega_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma = \int_{\cancel{\partial B_1}} \cancel{f \varphi \nu_i} \, d\sigma + \int_{\partial B_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\partial B_\varepsilon} f \varphi \nu_i \, d\sigma \right| &\leq \int_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |f| |\varphi| \underbrace{|\nu_i|}_{=1} \, d\sigma \leq \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \int_{\{\|x\|=\varepsilon\}} |f| \, d\sigma = \\ &\max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^{\varepsilon^2}}{\varepsilon^2} \mu \|x\| = \varepsilon \leq \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^{\varepsilon^2}}{\varepsilon^2} \varepsilon^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

We have that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \max_{\partial B_\varepsilon} |\varphi| \frac{e^{\varepsilon^2}}{\varepsilon^2} \varepsilon^{n-1} = 0 \iff 2 - 1 - n + 1 < 1 \iff n > 1$$

So we have shown that $f \in W^{1,p}(B) \iff n > 1 \wedge 1 \leq p < \frac{n}{3}$.

Exercise 3

Let $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ be a Banach space and let $v \in X$ such that $\|v\| = 1$. Moreover, let $T > 0$ and let $t_0 \in (0, T)$ be fixed. Prove that the map

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda_{t_0, v}: \mathcal{D}([0, T]) &\rightarrow X \\ \Lambda_{t_0, v}(\varphi) &:= \varphi(t_0)v \in X\end{aligned}$$

belongs to $\mathcal{D}'([0, T], X)$.

To show that $\Lambda_{t_0, v} \in \mathcal{D}'([0, T], X)$ we need to show that it is a continuous linear functional on $\mathcal{D}([0, T])$. Before we start, a quick reminder on the properties of series of functions in $\mathcal{D}([0, T])$.

Remark 2

Let $\{\varphi_n\}_n \subseteq \mathcal{D}([0, T])$ be a sequence of functions that converges to $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}([0, T])$. Then we have that

- \exists compact $[a, b] \subseteq [0, T]: \text{supp } \varphi_n \subset [a, b] \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$
- $\varphi_n^{(k)} \rightarrow \varphi^{(k)}$ uniformly on $[a, b]$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$

Checking if $\Lambda_{t_0, v}$ is linear we need to show that $\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) = \alpha\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\varphi) + \beta\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\psi)$. We have that

$$\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) = \alpha\varphi(t_0)v + \beta\psi(t_0)v = \alpha\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\varphi) + \beta\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\psi)$$

So our map is linear. Now we need to show that it is continuous. To do that we take advantage of the properties of the sequence of functions in $\mathcal{D}([0, T])$. Let $\{\varphi_n\}_n \subseteq \mathcal{D}([0, T])$ be a sequence of functions that converges to $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}([0, T])$.

We have that $\|\varphi_n - \varphi\| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. We can now compute the norm of the difference of the images of the functions

$$\begin{aligned}\|\Lambda_{t_0, v}(\varphi_n) - \Lambda_{t_0, v}(\varphi)\|_X &= \|\varphi_n(t_0)v - \varphi(t_0)v\|_X = \\ &= \|(\varphi_n(t_0) - \varphi(t_0))v\|_X \leq |\varphi_n(t_0) - \varphi(t_0)|\|v\|_X \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0\end{aligned}$$

So our map is also continuous. We have shown that $\Lambda_{t_0, v} \in \mathcal{D}'([0, T], X)$.

Exercise 4

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded open set. Prove that exists no solutions $u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$ of the problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 1 - u^2 & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

which satisfy the a-priori estimate $0 \leq u \leq 1$ in Ω .

To solve this we will need the maximum principle.

Remark 3

Let $u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$, then

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u \geq 0 & \Omega \\ u \leq 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases} \Rightarrow u \leq 0 \text{ in } \Omega$$

Which means the sign of u on the boundary is preserved in the interior. Also $\max_{\overline{\Omega}} u = \max_{\partial\Omega} u$.

In this case we have an a-priori estimate on u , which means that $0 \leq u \leq 1 \Rightarrow 1 - u^2 \geq 0$. We can now apply the maximum principle to the equation

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 1 - u^2 \geq 0 & \Omega \\ u = 0 & \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Since the maximum of u is on the boundary, we have that $u \leq 0$ in Ω . By our estimate this means that $0 \leq u \leq 1 \cap u \leq 0 \Rightarrow u = 0$. But this is not a solution to the equation, because

$$\Delta 0 = 1 - 0 = 1 \neq 0$$

So we have shown that there are no solutions $u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$ of the problem which satisfy the a-priori estimate $0 \leq u \leq 1$ in Ω .

2 Exams 2022/23

2.1 July 2022

Exercise 1

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded open set of class C^1 , and let $f \in L^2(\Omega)$. Consider the Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} -(2\partial_x^2 u + \partial_y^2 u + \partial_{xy} u) = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (\text{P})$$

- For a suitable symmetric matrix A , write the PDE appearing in (P) in the form $\operatorname{div}(A \cdot \nabla u) = f$.
- Write the variational formulation of (P) and show that there exists a unique solution $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ using Lax-Milgram's theorem.

First, we choose a suitable symmetric matrix A . In $n = 2$ we have that the PDE can be written as $A_{11}\partial_x^2 u + A_{22}\partial_y^2 u + 2A_{12}\partial_{xy} u$, so a suitable choice is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, the PDE can be written as

$$-\operatorname{div}(A \cdot \nabla u) = f.$$

Now we write the variational formulation of (P). We start by choosing an appropriate Hilbert triple. Since we are dealing with a Dirichlet problem, we choose $V = H_0^1(\Omega)$ and $V' = H^{-1}(\Omega)$, with $H = L^2(\Omega)$ to have $V \subseteq H \subseteq V'$, and multiply the PDE by a test function $v \in V$, integrate by parts, and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} -\operatorname{div}(A \cdot \nabla u) v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in V.$$

Now we integrate by parts and obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} A \cdot \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} v \, d\sigma = \int_{\Omega} f v \, dx \quad \forall v \in V.$$

We define the bilinear form $a(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx$ and apply Lax-Milgram's theorem. Then we need to check that a is continuous and coercive. First we check continuity:

$$|a(u, v)| = \left| \int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx \right| \leq |A| \|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \|\nabla v\|_{L^2} \leq |A| \|u\|_V \|v\|_V.$$

Now we check coercivity, taking advantage of these two facts ($\|u\|_{L^2} \leq C_p \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}$ and $\|u\|_V = \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}$):

$$a(u, u) = \int_{\Omega} A \cdot \nabla u \cdot \nabla u \, dx \geq |A| \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^2 = |A| \frac{1}{1 + C_p^2} \|u\|_V^2 = \alpha \|u\|_V^2.$$

Therefore, we have that the bilinear form is continuous and coercive, and by Lax-Milgram's theorem, there exists a unique solution $u \in V$ to the variational formulation of (P).

Exercise 2

Find solitary waves for the problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t - 2u_{xx} - u^3 = 0 & \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) & x \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

Moreover, discuss mass and momentum conservation for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P).

Quick reminder about the solitary waves for parabolic equations.

Remark 1

In the case of a parabolic equation, we have that the solution $u(x, t) = g(x + ct)$ where c is the speed of the wave.

We are working with solution of the form $u(x, t) = g(x + ct)$, so we substitute this solution in the equation and obtain

$$cg'(x + ct) - 2g''(x + ct) - (g'(x + ct))^3 = 0 \Rightarrow cg'(x + ct) - g''(x + ct) = (g'(x + ct))^3$$

We perform a change of variable $s = x + ct$ and obtain

$$cg'(s) - 2g''(s) = (g'(s))^3$$

At this point we are working with an ODE, so we can solve it. We start by defining $y(s) = g'(s)$ and obtain

$$cy(s) - 2y'(s) = y(s)^3 \Rightarrow 2y'(s) = cy(s) - y(s)^3$$

To solve this we introduce

$$z(s) = \frac{1}{y(s)^2} \Rightarrow z'(s) = -2\frac{y'(s)}{y(s)^3}$$

We substitute $y'(s)$ and obtain

$$z'(s) = -2\frac{y(s)^2 - cy(s)}{y(s)^3} = -c\frac{1}{y(s)^2} + 1 = -cz(s) + 1$$

Solving this ODE we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z(s) &= e^{-cs} \left(k + \int_0^s e^{ct} dt \right) = e^{-cs} \left(k + \frac{e^{ct}}{c} \Big|_0^s \right) = e^{-cs} \left(k + \frac{e^{cs} - 1}{c} \right) = ke^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c} - \frac{e^{-cs}}{c} = \\ &= e^{-cs} \left(k - \frac{1}{c} \right) + \frac{1}{c} = k_0 e^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c} \end{aligned}$$

At this point we use the definition of $z(s)$ and obtain

$$y(s)^2 = \frac{1}{z(s)} = \frac{1}{k_0 e^{-cs} + \frac{1}{c}} = \frac{ce^{cs}}{ck_0 + e^{cs}} = \frac{ce^{cs}}{k_1 + e^{cs}}$$

Then we compute the square root of this expression and obtain

$$y(s) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{ce^{cs}}{k_1 + e^{cs}}} = g'(s)$$

Since

$$g'(s) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{ce^{cs}}{k_1 + e^{cs}}}$$

At this point we can conclude \nexists solitary waves for the problem and then \nexists global solutions for the problem.

Now we can discuss mass and momentum conservation for general solutions $u \in S(\mathbb{R})$ of (P). We start by defining the mass and momentum of the solution

$$M(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx$$

$$\mathcal{M}(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^3 dx$$

We compute the derivative of the mass

$$\begin{aligned} M'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u_{xx}(x, t) + u_x(x, t)^3 dx = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \underbrace{2(u_x)_x}_{\text{div. form}=0} + u_x^3 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x^3 dx \end{aligned}$$

We do not have mass conservation, since mass is not constant over time.

We compute the derivative of the momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x, t)^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u(x, t)u_t(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} 2u(x, t)2u_{xx} + 2uu_x^3 dx = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} 4uu_{xx} + \underbrace{2uu_x^3}_{=2uu_xu_x^2} dx = \cancel{\int_{\mathbb{R}} 4uu_x^2 dx} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} 4u_x^2 dx + \cancel{\int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2u_x^2 dx} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^22u_xu_{xx} dx = \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_x(4u_x - 2u^2u_{xx}) dx \end{aligned}$$

As we can see, the momentum is not conserved either.

Exercise 3

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - |x| & \text{if } |x| < 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } |x| \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Prove that $f \in H^s(\mathbb{R})$ for all $s < 3/2$. Hint: use the Fourier transform.

We start by recalling the definition of $H^s(\mathbb{R})$.

Remark 2

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$. We define the Sobolev space $H^s(\mathbb{R})$ as

$$H^s(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : (1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{s}{2}} \hat{f}(\xi) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \right\}$$

We start by computing the Fourier transform of f . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}(\xi) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{-ix\xi} dx = \int_{-1}^0 (1+x) e^{-ix\xi} dx + \int_0^1 (1-x) e^{-ix\xi} dx = \\ &= \int_{-1}^0 e^{-ix\xi} dx + \int_0^1 e^{-ix\xi} dx + \int_{-1}^0 x e^{-ix\xi} dx - \int_0^1 x e^{-ix\xi} dx = \\ &= \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_{-1}^0 + \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_0^1 + \int_{-1}^0 x e^{-ix\xi} dx - \int_0^1 x e^{-ix\xi} dx = \\ &= \frac{1}{-i\xi} - \frac{e^{i\xi}}{-i\xi} + \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{-i\xi} - \frac{1}{-i\xi} + x \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_{-1}^0 - \int_{-1}^0 \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} dx - x \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_0^1 + \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} dx = \\ &= \cancel{\frac{1}{-i\xi}} - \cancel{\frac{e^{i\xi}}{-i\xi}} + \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{-i\xi} - \cancel{\frac{1}{-i\xi}} + x \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_{-1}^0 - \int_{-1}^0 \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} dx - x \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} \Big|_0^1 + \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-ix\xi}}{-i\xi} dx = \\ &= \cancel{\frac{1}{-i\xi}} + \cancel{\frac{e^{i\xi}}{-i\xi}} + \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{-i\xi} - \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{(-i\xi)^2} \Big|_{-1}^0 - \cancel{\frac{1}{-i\xi}} + \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{(-i\xi)^2} \Big|_0^1 = \\ &= -\frac{1}{\xi^2} + \frac{e^{i\xi}}{\xi^2} + \frac{e^{-i\xi}}{\xi^2} - \frac{1}{\xi^2} = \frac{e^{i\xi} + e^{-i\xi} - 2}{\xi^2} \end{aligned}$$

Remembering that $\cos(\xi) = \frac{e^{i\xi} + e^{-i\xi}}{2}$ and $\sin(\xi) = \frac{e^{i\xi} - e^{-i\xi}}{2i}$, we can rewrite the Fourier transform as

$$\hat{f}(\xi) = \frac{(e^{i\xi} + e^{-i\xi} - 2)}{\xi^2} = \frac{2 \cos(\xi) - 2}{\xi^2}$$

Now to check that $f \in H^s(\mathbb{R})$ for all $s < 3/2$, we need to check that $(1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{s}{2}} \hat{f}(\xi) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. We have that

$$(1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{s}{2}} \frac{2 \cos(\xi) - 2}{\xi^2} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \iff \int_{\mathbb{R}} (1 + |\xi|^2)^s \left| \frac{2 \cos(\xi) - 2}{\xi^2} \right|^2 d\xi < \infty$$

We know that $0 \leq \cos(\xi) - 1 \leq 2$ and that $(1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{s}{2}} \xrightarrow{\xi \rightarrow \infty} |\xi|^s$, so we can write

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} (1 + |\xi|^2)^s \left| \frac{2 \cos(\xi) - 2}{\xi^2} \right|^2 d\xi \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left| \frac{2\xi^s}{\xi^2} \right|^2 d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{4\xi^{2s}}{\xi^4} d\xi = 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{\xi^{4-2s}} d\xi$$

We know that the integral $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{\xi^{4-2s}} d\xi$ converges if $4 - 2s > 1 \Rightarrow s < 3/2$, so we have that $f \in H^s(\mathbb{R})$ for all $s < 3/2$.