
Homework #3

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Problem 1

Let $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$, and set

$$g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy.$$

Prove that g is continuous, and show that $\frac{dg}{dx} = f$, where $\frac{dg}{dx}$ denotes the weak derivative.

Hint: given $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, use the definition of g to obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi'(x) g(x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{-\infty}^x \phi'(x) f(y) dy dx.$$

Then write this integral as

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \int_{\mathbb{R}} [\phi(x+h) - \phi(x)] g(x) dx = - \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_x^{x+h} f(y) \phi(x) dy dx.$$

Proof. First we show g is continuous. Let $x_n \rightarrow x$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} |g(x_n) - g(x)| &= \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \left| \int_{-\infty}^{x_n} f(y) dy - \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy \right| \\ &= \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \left| \int_x^{x_n} f(y) dy \right| \\ &\leq \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \int_x^{x_n} |f(y)| dy \\ &= \begin{cases} \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \|f \chi_{[x, x_n]}\|_1 & , \text{ if } x_n > x \\ \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \|f \chi_{[x_n, x]}\|_1 & , \text{ else} \end{cases} \\ &\leq \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \|f\|_1 \|\chi_{[x, x_n]}\|_\infty \quad \text{without loss of generality} \\ &= \|f\|_1 \lim_{x_n \rightarrow x} \|\chi_{x_n, x}\|_\infty \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus g is continuous. Next we show the weak derivative of g is f . Let ϕ be any test function. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi'(x) g(x) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi'(x) \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{-\infty}^x \phi'(x) f(y) dy dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_y^\infty \phi'(x) f(y) dx dy \quad \text{by Fubini's Theorem} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left[\int_y^\infty \phi'(x) dx \right] f(y) dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(y) f(y) dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

Thus f is the weak derivative of g . □

Problem 2

Show that $W^{n,1}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset C(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Hint: $u(x) = \int_{-\infty}^0 \dots \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_1 \dots \partial x_n} u(x+y) dy_1 \dots dy_n$.

Proof. For ease, let $\alpha_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$, $\alpha_2 = (1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$, \dots , $\alpha_n = (1, 1, 1, \dots, 1)$. By the hint.

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^0 \dots \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_1 \dots \partial x_n} u(x+y) dy_1 \dots dy_n \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 \int_{-\infty}^0 D^{\alpha_n} u(x+y) dy_1 \dots dy_n \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{x_n} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} D^{\alpha_n} u(t) dt_1 \dots dt_n \end{aligned}$$

by some change of variables. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup |u(x)| &= \sup \left| \int_{-\infty}^{x_n} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} D^{\alpha_n} u(t) dt_1 \dots dt_n \right| \\ &= \sup \int_{-\infty}^{x_n} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} |D^{\alpha_n} u(t)| dt_1 \dots dt_n \\ &\leq \sup \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |D^{\alpha_n} u(t)| dt_1 \dots dt_n \\ &= \|D^{\alpha_n} u(t)\|_\infty \\ &< \infty \end{aligned}$$

since $|\alpha| = n$ and hence $D^{\alpha_n} u(t) \in L^1(\Omega)$. Thus u is bounded, i.e. $u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Next we show u is continuous. For ease, denote $g_i = D^{\alpha_i} u \in L^1$. Then

$$g_{i-1} = \int_{-\infty}^{x_i} g_i(t) dx_i$$

for $i = 2, \dots, n$ and $u = \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} g_1(t) dt_1$. Then by problem 1, g_{n-1} is continuous. But since $g_{n-1} \in L^1$, then g_{n-2} is continuous. Since n is finite, we can do this $n-2$ times to show g_1 is continuous. Again, since $g_1 \in L^1$, then u is continuous. Thus $u \in C(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. \square

Problem 3

If $u \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R})$ and if $\frac{du}{dx} = f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$, then

$$u(x) = C + \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy, \quad a.e. x \in \mathbb{R}$$

for some constant C .

Proof. First let $v(x) := C + \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy$. Then by problem 1, $\frac{dv}{dx} = f$. Then for all test functions ϕ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x) \phi'(x) dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \phi(x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} v(x) \phi'(x) dx$$

Every test function is the derivative of some other test function, and so we can say that for all test functions ψ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x)\psi(x)dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} v(x)\phi(x)dx$$

Since this holds for all test functions, it holds in particular for $\psi = \eta_\varepsilon$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$. Then

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} u(x)\eta_\varepsilon(x-y)dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} v(x)\eta_\varepsilon(x-y)dx \iff u^\varepsilon = v^\varepsilon$$

Since $u^\varepsilon \rightarrow u$ and $v^\varepsilon \rightarrow v$, and $\lim u^\varepsilon = \lim v^\varepsilon$, then $u = v$, i.e.

$$u(x) = C + \int_{-\infty}^x f(y)dy, \quad a.e. x \in \mathbb{R}$$

□

Problem 4

Let $\Omega := B(0, \frac{1}{2}) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ denote the open ball of radius $\frac{1}{2}$. For $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \Omega$, let

$$u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2 \log(|\log(|x|)|) \text{ where } |x| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}.$$

(a) Show that $u \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$.

(b) Show that $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_j^2} \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ for $j = 1, 2$ but $u \notin C^2(\bar{\Omega})$.

(c) Show that $u \in H^2(\Omega)$.

Proof. (a) First, we calculate the first partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} = \frac{x_i^2 x_j}{|x|^2 |\log(|x|)|} + x_j \log(|\log(|x|)|)$$

Note that as $|x| \rightarrow 0$, then by L'Hospital, each of the above terms $\rightarrow 0$. Thus $u \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$.

(b) Next, we calculate each non-mixed second partial derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2} &= \frac{2x_i x_j |x|^2 |\log(|x|)|}{|x|^2 |\log(|x|)|^2} - \frac{x_i^2}{|x|^2 |\log(|x|)|^2} + \frac{2x_i^3 x_j |\log(|x|)|}{|x|^2 |\log(|x|)|^2} + x_i x_j \\ &= \frac{2x_i x_j}{|\log(|x|)|} - \frac{x_i^2}{|x|^2 |\log(|x|)|^2} + \frac{2x_i^3 x_j}{|x| |\log(|x|)|} + x_i x_j \end{aligned}$$

Similar to the first partials, each term $\rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow 0$. Thus $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2} \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ for $i = 1, 2$. However,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_j \partial x_i} = \frac{x_i^2}{|x| |\log(|x|)|} + \frac{x_i^2 x_j^2}{|x|^4 |\log(|x|)|^2} + \frac{2x_i^2 x_j^2}{|x|^4 |\log(|x|)|} + \frac{x_j^2}{|x| |\log(|x|)|} + \frac{|\log(|\log(|x|)|)|}{|\log(|\log(|x|)|)|} \rightarrow \infty$$

which diverges to ∞ as $|x| \rightarrow 0$. Thus $u \notin C^2(\bar{\Omega})$.

- (c) Although $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}$ is not continuous, it is integrable, and thus there is a v such that for all test functions ϕ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} u \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} dx = (-1)^2 \int_{\Omega} v \phi dx + \int_{\partial B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x)} \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_2} \right] ds, \quad \text{where the boundary is oriented outwards.}$$

which shows the second weak derivatives of u exist for any α , which shows $u \in H^2(\Omega)$. □

Problem 5

Prove that $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for integers $k \geq 0$ and $1 \leq p < \infty$.

Proof. First note that $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $u \in W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then in particular, $\eta_\varepsilon * u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and

$$\|\eta_\varepsilon * u - u\|_{W^{k,p}} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|D^\alpha(\eta_\varepsilon * u) - D^\alpha u\|_{L^p} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|\eta_\varepsilon * D^\alpha u - D^\alpha u\|_{L^p} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \rightarrow 0$$

since each $D^\alpha u \in L^p$ and convolutions approximate functions. Thus $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Next we show $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Suppose $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Define $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ as follows:

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |x| \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } |x| \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Then for $R = 1, 2, \dots$, define ϕ_R as the dilation of ϕ .

$$\phi_R(x) = \phi\left(\frac{x}{R}\right).$$

Also define $f_R = \phi_R f$. Note $f_R \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ since $\phi_R \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then by the Liebnitz rule,

$$\partial^\alpha f_R = \partial^\alpha [\phi_R f] = \sum_{|\beta| \leq |\alpha|} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} \partial^\beta \phi_R \partial^{\alpha-\beta} f = \phi_R \partial^\alpha f + \sum_{\substack{|\beta| \leq |\alpha| \\ \beta \neq 0}} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} \partial^\beta \phi_R \partial^{\alpha-\beta} f$$

Note that any partial derivative of ϕ_R contains a factor of $\frac{1}{R}$ by the chain rule. Thus,

$$\partial^\alpha f_R = \phi_R \partial^\alpha f + \frac{1}{R} h_R$$

where h_R is a bounded function in L^p . It is also uniformly bounded in R , which implies

$$\left\| \frac{1}{R} h_R \right\|_p \leq \frac{1}{R} \|h_R\| \leq \frac{M}{R} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } R \rightarrow \infty.$$

Thus, $\partial^\alpha f_R \rightarrow \partial^\alpha f$ in L^p for each $|\alpha| \leq k$, which implies $f_R \rightarrow f$ in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Since each $f_R \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. □

Problem 6

Let η_ε denote the standard mollifier, and for $u \in H^3(\mathbb{R}^3)$, set $u^\varepsilon = \eta_\varepsilon * u$. Prove that

$$\|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C\sqrt{\varepsilon}\|u\|_{H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)},$$

and that

$$\|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C\varepsilon\|u\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

Proof. Let $u \in H^3(\mathbb{R}^3) = W^{3,2}(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Then since $3 < 2 \cdot 3 = 6$, then by Morrey's Inequality for $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, where $(k, p, n) = (3, 2, 3)$,

$$\|u\|_{C^{3-1-[\frac{3}{2}], 1+[\frac{3}{2}]-\frac{3}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \|u\|_{C^{1, \frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C\|u\|_{W^{3,2}(\mathbb{R}^3)} = C\|u\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R}^3)}$$

Similary, since $H^3(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$, then since $3 < 2 \cdot 2 = 4$, then

$$\|u\|_{C^{2-1-[\frac{3}{2}], 1+[\frac{3}{2}]-\frac{3}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \|u\|_{C^{0, \frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C\|u\|_{W^{2,2}(\mathbb{R}^3)} = C\|u\|_{H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)}$$

Since $\|u\|_{C^{1, \frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} < \infty$ and $\|u\|_{C^{0, \frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^n)} < \infty$, then u is continuous, and thus $\|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq \|u\|_{C^{i, \frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^3)}$ for $i = 0, 1$. Thus $\|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{L^\infty} \leq C\|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{H^j(\mathbb{R}^3)}$ for $j = 2, 3$. Thus

$$\|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C\sqrt{\varepsilon}\|u\|_{H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)} \quad \text{and} \quad \|u^\varepsilon - u\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \leq C\varepsilon\|u\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

□

Problem 7

Let $D := B(0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ denote the unit disc, and let

$$u(x) = [-\log|x|]^\alpha.$$

Prove that the *weak derivative* of u exists for all $\alpha \geq 0$.

Proof. For any $0 < \delta < 1$, set $D_\delta = B(0, 1) \setminus B(0, \delta)$. Then for $u(x) = [-\log|x|]^\alpha$, the strong derivative u' exists on D_δ , and thus the weak derivative of u exists on D_δ for all $\alpha \geq 0$. It remains to be shown that the boundary terms of the integral over the remaining δ -ball limit to 0 as $\delta \rightarrow 0$. □