
Homework #3

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Problem 1	2
Problem 2	3
Problem 3	3
Problem 4	4
Problem 5	5
Problem 6	5
Problem 7	5

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

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

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 $g_i = D^{\alpha_i} f \in L^1$. Then

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

is continuous. However, this is also the integrand of □

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,

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

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 ,

$$\int_{\Omega} u \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} dx = (-1)^2 \int_{\Omega} v \phi dx + \int_{\partial B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x)} [\text{something}] \cdot nds$$

□

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.

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

since each $D^\alpha u \in L^p$ and convolutions approximate functions. Thus $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Also, let $u \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then for $\Omega \subset\subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\eta_\varepsilon * \chi_\Omega u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Thus C_c^∞ is dense in $C_c^\infty \cap W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. This shows C_c^∞ is dense in $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. \square

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

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

and that

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

Proof.

\square

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.

\square