

# Sobolev Spaces

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# Basic Definitions

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$C^{\infty}$  is the space of all functions is infinitely continuously differentiable.

The  $C_0^{\infty} \subset C^{\infty}$  are all functions zero outside a compact set.

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We refer to  $H^m$  with this inner-product as a **Sobolev space**. Also denoted by  $W^{m,2}$ .

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We have the following relations between the function spaces

$$\begin{aligned} L^2(\Omega) &= H^0(\Omega) \supset H^1(\Omega) \supset H^2(\Omega) \cdots \supset H^m(\Omega) \\ &\quad \parallel \quad \cup \quad \cup \quad \quad \cup \\ &= H_0^0(\Omega) \supset H_0^1(\Omega) \supset H_0^2(\Omega) \cdots \supset H_0^m(\Omega). \end{aligned}$$

We can also define function spaces based on  $L^p(\Omega)$ ,  $C^\infty$ ,  $C_0^\infty$  similarly using the norm  $\|\cdot\|_p$ .

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The Sobolev space denoted by  $W^{m,p}$  (also by  $W_p^m$ ) is the collection of functions obtained by completing  $C^\infty(\Omega) \subset L^p(\Omega)$  under the norm  $\|\cdot\|_m$ .

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Similarly, we obtain  $W_0^{m,p}$  by completing  $C_0^\infty(\Omega) \subset L^p(\Omega)$  under  $\|\cdot\|_m$ .

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Consider a given domain  $\Omega$  and compact sets  $K \subset \Omega$ . We define the set of **locally integrable** functions as

$$L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega) := \{v \mid v \in L^1(K), \forall K \subset \Omega^\circ\}$$

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**Example:** Let  $f(x) = 3$  on the rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $f(x) = 2$  on the positive irrationals  $\mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  and  $f(x) = -1$  on the negative irrationals  $\mathbb{R}^- \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ .

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For  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , we define the **Sobolev norm** as

$$\|v\|_{W_p^k(\Omega)} := \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|D_w^\alpha v\|_{L^p(\Omega)}^p \right)^{1/p},$$

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## Theorem

**Poincaré-Friedrichs Inequality:** Consider the domain  $\Omega \subset [0, s]^n$  is contained within a cube of side-length  $s$ . Then

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This shows the 1-semi-norm bounds the 0-norm.



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**Proof:**

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**Proof:** Since  $v \in H_0^1$  and using a point on the boundary  $(0, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$  we can express  $v$  as

$$v(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = v(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) + \int_0^{x_1} \partial^1 v(z, x_2, \dots, x_n) dz = \int_0^{x_1} \partial^1 v(z, x_2, \dots, x_n) dz$$

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We integrate over the cube  $Q = [0, s]^n$  with  $v, \partial^1 v$  extended to vanish outside of  $\Omega$ .

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Also, shows that if we have convergence in  $\|\cdot\|_{W_p^k(\Omega)}$  then also converges in  $\|\cdot\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$ .

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$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx dy \right)^{1/2} + \left( \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx dy \right)^{1/2} \leq \left( 2 \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u|^2 + u^2) dx dy \right)^{1/2}.$$

This implies

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\partial\Omega)} \leq 8^{1/4} \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{1/2} \|u\|_{W_2^1(\Omega)}^{1/2}.$$

## Lemma

Let  $\Omega$  be the unit disk. For all  $u \in W_2^1(\Omega)$  the restriction of  $u|_{\partial\Omega}$  can be interpreted as a function in  $L^2(\partial\Omega)$ . Furthermore, it satisfies the bound

$$\|u\|_{L^2(\partial\Omega)} \leq 8^{1/4} \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^{1/2} \|u\|_{W_2^1(\Omega)}^{1/2}.$$

### Proof (sketch):

By Cauchy-Swartz we have

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# Trace Theorems (boundary conditions)

## Theorem

**Trace Theorem:** Consider  $\Omega$  with a Lipschitz boundary and  $p$  real number with  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . We then have there exists a constant  $C$  so that

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**Trace-Free Sobolev Spaces:** We denote by  $\mathring{W}_p^1(\Omega)$  the subset of  $W_p^1(\Omega)$  consisting of the functions whose trace on the boundary  $v|_{\partial\Omega}$  is zero. In particular,

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