

Recall: • Strong maximum principle

• Apply maximum principle to establish some a priori estimates

key: construct suitable auxiliary function.

e.g. $w = \gamma_1 w_1 + \gamma_2 w_2$. $w_1 = R^{-\beta} (R^2 - |x|^2)^\beta$ $w_2 = R^\beta (e^A - e^{\frac{Ax}{d}})$

Lecture 5. Poisson's equation (I)

Ω : domain in \mathbb{R}^n . $\Delta u = f$ in Ω is called Poisson's equation.

observation: If $u \in C^2(\Omega)$, then $\Delta u \in C(\Omega)$

Question: Given $f \in C(\Omega)$, is there a C^2 -solution of Poisson's equation?

Answer: No. $\exists f \in C(\Omega)$ s.t. $\Delta u = f$ does not admit any C^2 -solution.

\Rightarrow For Poisson's equation $\Delta u = f$, $C(\Omega)$ is not a "good" space.

2. Hölder spaces

Ω : bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^n . $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

f : a function defined in Ω .

Definition. (1) For any $\Omega' \subset\subset \Omega$, $\exists C_{\Omega'}$ (may depend on Ω')

s.t. $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C_{\Omega'} |x - y|^\alpha \quad \forall x, y \in \Omega'$.

Then f is called locally Hölder continuous with respect to α in Ω . Denote the set of all such functions by $C^\alpha(\Omega)$.

(2) $\exists C$ s.t.

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C |x - y|^\alpha \quad \forall x, y \in \Omega.$$

Then f is called uniformly Hölder continuous with respect to α in Ω . Denote the set of all such functions by $C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})$.

Remark. • If $f \in C^\alpha(\Omega)$, then $f \in C(\Omega)$

• If $f \in C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})$, then f can be extended continuously to $\bar{\Omega}$.

Definition. (1) For $f \in C^{\alpha}(\bar{\Omega})$, define its Hölder semi-norm by

$$[f]_{C^{\alpha}(\bar{\Omega})} = [f]_{C^{\alpha}(\Omega)} = \sup_{\substack{x, y \in \Omega \\ x \neq y}} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|^{\alpha}} = \sup_{\substack{x, y \in \bar{\Omega} \\ x \neq y}} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|^{\alpha}}$$

(2) For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ define

$$C^{k, \alpha}(\Omega) = \{u \in C^k(\Omega) \mid \nabla^k u \in C^{\alpha}(\Omega)\}$$

$$C^{k, \alpha}(\bar{\Omega}) = \{u \in C^k(\bar{\Omega}) \mid \nabla^k u \in C^{\alpha}(\bar{\Omega})\}$$

For $u \in C^{k, \alpha}(\bar{\Omega})$, define

$$\|u\|_{C^k(\Omega)} = \sum_{i=0}^k \sup_{\Omega} |\nabla^i u|$$

$$\|u\|_{C^{k, \alpha}(\Omega)} = \|u\|_{C^k(\Omega)} + [\nabla^k u]_{C^{\alpha}(\Omega)}$$

Remark. $(C^k(\bar{\Omega}), \|\cdot\|_{C^k(\Omega)})$ and $(C^{k, \alpha}(\bar{\Omega}), \|\cdot\|_{C^{k, \alpha}(\Omega)})$ are Banach spaces.

3. Newtonian Potential

Ω : bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^n . $f \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$

Definition. The Newtonian potential of f in Ω is defined by

$$W_{\Omega, f}(x) = \int_{\Omega} \Gamma(x-y) f(y) dy \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

where Γ is the fundamental solution

$$\Gamma(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} \log|x| & n=2 \\ \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n} |x|^{2-n} & n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

Remark. Recall $\Gamma(x-\cdot)$ is L^1 -integrable near x (cf. Lecture 1)
 $\Rightarrow W = W_{\Omega, f}$ is well-defined in \mathbb{R}^n .

Recall: Green's identity

$$u(x) = \int_{\Omega} \Gamma(x-y) \Delta u(y) dy - \int_{\partial \Omega} \left[\Gamma(x-y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}(y) - u(y) \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial n}(x-y) \right] dS_y$$

Newtonian Potential w is the first term of RHS of Green's identity.

↓
 (right hand side)

Lemma. $\Omega = B_1$. $f \in L^\infty(B_1)$.

$$(1) W \in C^1(B_1) \text{ \& } \partial_{x_i} W(x) = \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) f(y) dy$$

$$(2) \|W\|_{C^1(B_1)} \leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$$

Proof. (1) Set $V_i(x) = \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) f(y) dy$. $x \in \bar{B}_1$

$$|\partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y)| \leq C(n) |y-x|^{-n} \stackrel{(*)}{\Rightarrow} \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) \in L^1(B_1)$$

$\exists R > 0$. s.t. $B_{R(x)} \subset \subset B_1$.

$$\int_{B_1} |\partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y)| dy = \underbrace{\int_{B_{R(x)}} |\partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y)| dy}_{+ \infty} + \int_{B_1 \setminus B_{R(x)}} |\partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y)| dy$$

$$(*) \Rightarrow \underbrace{\quad} \leq C(n) \int_{B_{R(x)}} |y-x|^{-n} dy$$

$$= C(n) \int_0^R \int_{\partial B_r(x)} |y-x|^{-n} dS_y \cdot dr$$

$$= C(n) \int_0^R n \omega_n r^{n-1} \cdot r^{-n} dr$$

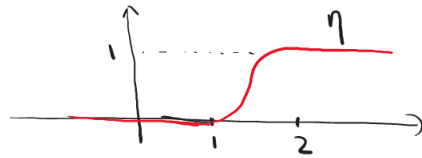
$$< +\infty$$

$\Rightarrow \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) \in L^1(B_1) \Rightarrow V_i$ is well-defined.

Step 1. Construct smooth approximation W_ε of W

Choose $\eta \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \leq \eta \leq 1 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \\ \eta \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } (-\infty, 1] \\ \eta \equiv 1 \quad \text{in } [2, \infty) \\ 0 \leq \eta' \leq 100 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right.$$



$\forall \varepsilon > 0$. define

$$W_\varepsilon(x) = \int_{B_1} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon \cdot f(y) dy \quad \text{where } \Gamma = \Gamma(x-y) \quad \eta_\varepsilon = \eta\left(\frac{|x-y|}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

\Downarrow

$$\left[W(x) = \int_{B_1} \Gamma \cdot f(y) dy \right] \quad W_\varepsilon \in C^\infty(\bar{B}_1)$$

$$\partial_{x_i} W_\varepsilon(x) = \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\Gamma \eta_\varepsilon) f(y) dy.$$

Step 2. As $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, $W_\varepsilon \rightarrow W$ in $C^0(\bar{B}_1)$ &

$\partial_i W_\varepsilon \rightarrow V_i$ in $C^0(\bar{B}_1)$

(1) follows from step 2.

Only prove $n \geq 3$. ($n=2$ similarly)

$$\begin{aligned}
 |W_\varepsilon(x) - W(x)| &\leq \left| \int_{B_1} \Gamma \cdot (\eta_\varepsilon - 1) f(y) dy \right| \\
 &\leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_1} |\Gamma \cdot (1 - \eta_\varepsilon)| dy \\
 &\leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} |\Gamma| dy \\
 &= \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} \frac{1}{n(n-2)\omega_n} |y-x|^{2-n} dy \\
 &= \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \cdot C(n) \int_0^{2\varepsilon} r dr \\
 &= \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \cdot C(n) \cdot 2\varepsilon^2 \rightarrow 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\partial_i W_\varepsilon(x) - V_i(x)| &\leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} |\partial_{x_i}(\Gamma \eta_\varepsilon - \Gamma)| dy \\
 &= \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} |\partial_{x_i}(\Gamma(1 - \eta_\varepsilon))| dy \\
 &\leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} \left(|\partial_{x_i} \Gamma| + \frac{100}{\varepsilon} |\Gamma| \right) dy \\
 &\leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \cdot \varepsilon \rightarrow 0
 \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow Step 2 \checkmark

(2). $\forall x \in B_1$

$$|W(x)| \leq \|f\|_{L^\infty} \int_{B_1} |\Gamma| dy \leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty}$$

$$|\partial_i W(x)| \leq \|f\|_{L^\infty} \int_{B_1} |\partial_i \Gamma| dy \leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|W\|_{C^1(B_1)} \leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$$

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Lemma. $\Omega = B_1$. $f \in C^\alpha(\bar{B}_1)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

(1) $W \in C^2(B_1)$ &

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{ij} W(x) &= \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i x_j} \Gamma(x-y) \cdot (f(y) - f(x)) dy \\ &\quad - f(x) \int_{\partial B_1} \partial_{x_j} \Gamma(x-y) \eta_i dS_y \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

& $\Delta W = f$.

$$(2) \|W\|_{C^2(B_{1/2})} \leq C(\alpha, n) \|f\|_{C^\alpha(B_1)}$$

Proof. (1) Set $V_{ij}(x) = \text{RHS of } (*)$

$$f \in C^\alpha(\bar{B}_1) \Rightarrow |f(y) - f(x)| \leq [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} |y-x|^\alpha$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow |\partial_{x_i x_j} \Gamma(x-y) \cdot (f(y) - f(x))| &\leq C(n) |x-y|^{-n} [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} |x-y|^\alpha \\ &= C(n) [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} |x-y|^{\alpha-n} \in L^1(B_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[\int_{B_R(x)} |x-y|^{\alpha-n} dy = \int_0^R C(n) r^{n-1} r^{\alpha-n} dr < \infty \right]$$

$\Rightarrow V_{ij}$ is well-defined in B_1

Note that $|x-y|^{-n} \notin L^1(B_1)$ so $f \in C^\alpha(\bar{B}_1)$ is important!

Step 1. Smooth approximation $V_{j,\varepsilon}$ of $\partial_{ij} W$.

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \text{ define } V_{j,\varepsilon}(x) = \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon \cdot f(y) dy$$

where η_ε is the same function in the previous lemma.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_i V_{j,\varepsilon}(x) &= \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) f(y) dy \\ &= \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) (f(y) - f(x)) dy \\ &\quad + f(x) \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) dy \\ &= \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) (f(y) - f(x)) dy \\ &\quad - f(x) \int_{B_1} \partial_{y_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) dy \end{aligned}$$

[$\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon$ depends only on $(x-y)$.

$$\Rightarrow \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) = -\partial_{y_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon)$$

$$= \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon) (f(y) - f(x)) dy$$

$$- \int_{\partial B_1} \partial_{x_j} \Gamma \cdot \eta_\varepsilon \cdot \eta_i dS_y$$

Step 2. $\forall r \in (0,1)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. $V_{j,\varepsilon} \rightarrow \partial_j W$ $\partial_i V_{j,\varepsilon} \rightarrow V_{ij}$ in $C^0(\bar{B}_r)$.

$$|V_{j,\varepsilon}(x) - \partial_j W(x)| \leq \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} |\partial_{x_j} \Gamma| (1 - \eta_\varepsilon) dy$$

$$\leq c(n) \cdot \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \cdot \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$$

when $\varepsilon < \frac{1}{2}(1-r) \Rightarrow \eta_\varepsilon = 1$ on ∂B_1 .

$$|\partial_i V_{j,\varepsilon}(x) - V_{ij}(x)| \leq \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} |\partial_{x_i} (\partial_{x_j} \Gamma (1 - \eta_\varepsilon)) \cdot (f(y) - f(x))| dy$$

$$\leq [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} (|\partial_{x_i} \partial_{x_j} \Gamma| + \frac{100}{\varepsilon} |\partial_{x_j} \Gamma|) |y-x|^\alpha dy$$

$$\leq [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x)} [c(n) |y-x|^{-n} + \frac{100}{\varepsilon} c(n) |y-x|^{-n}] |y-x|^\alpha dy$$

$$\leq c(n, \alpha) [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \cdot \varepsilon^\alpha \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

\Rightarrow step 2 $\Rightarrow W \in C^2(B_1)$ & $\partial_{ij} W = V_{ij}$.

Step 3 $\Delta W = f$.

$$\Delta W(x) = \int_{B_1} \Delta_x \Gamma(x-y) (f(y) - f(x)) dy - f(x) \int_{\partial B_1} \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) \eta_i(y) dS_y$$

$$= 0 + f(x) \int_{\partial B_1} \partial_{y_i} \Gamma(x-y) \eta_i(y) dS_y$$

$$= f(x) \cdot \int_{\partial B_1} \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \eta_y}(x-y) dS_y$$

$$= f(x)$$

" (cf. Lecture 1)

(2). $\forall x \in B_{1/2}$

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_{ij} W(x)| &= \left| \int_{B_1} \partial_{x_i x_j} \Gamma(x-y) (f(y) - f(x)) dy - f(x) \int_{\partial B_1} \partial_{x_i} \Gamma(x-y) \nu_j dS_y \right| \\ &\leq C(n) [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \int_{B_1} |y-x|^{\alpha-n} dy \\ &\quad + C(n) \|f\|_{L^\alpha(B_1)} \int_{\partial B_1} |y-x|^{-n} dS_y \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (|x| < \frac{1}{2}) &\leq C(\alpha, n) [f]_{C^\alpha(B_1)} + C(n) \|f\|_{L^\alpha(B_1)} \\ &\leq C(\alpha, n) \|f\|_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with $\|W\|_{C^1(B_1)} \leq C(n) \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$

$$\Rightarrow \|W\|_{C^2(B_{1/2})} \leq C(\alpha, n) \|f\|_{C^\alpha(B_1)} \quad \#$$