

Duality for L^p spaces

Theorem: Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open ($\neq \emptyset$) and let μ denote a non-negative Radon measure on Ω . Then given $1 \leq p < \infty$ we have that $(L^p(\Omega))^*$ is isometrically isomorphic to $L^q(\Omega)$ w/ $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. (More explicitly, there exists a surjective isometry $J: L^q(\Omega) \rightarrow (L^p(\Omega))^*$.)

Remark. conclusion is false if $p = \infty$, in fact $(L^\infty(\Omega))^* \not\cong L^1(\Omega)$

why? Ω as above, $\mu = \mathcal{L}^n$. Pick the functionals for $x_0 \in \Omega$

$$\delta_{x_0}: C^0(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{bounded, linear map}$$

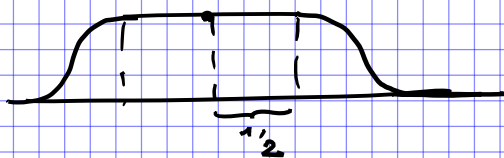
$$f \mapsto f(x_0) \quad \leftarrow |f(x_0)| \leq \|f\|_{C^0}$$

so by Hahn-Banach \exists extension $l: L^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
bounded, linear operator.

Suppose by contradiction that $l = l_g$ for some $g \in L^1(\Omega)$

where $l_g(f) = \int_\Omega f g \, d\mu$. WLOG say $x_0 = 0$ $\mathbb{B}_1(0) \subset \Omega$

Consider $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{B}_1(0))$, $0 \leq \varphi \leq 1$ $\varphi \equiv 1$ on $\mathbb{B}_{1/2}(0)$



rescale it: $\varphi_k(x) = \varphi(kx)$

then $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}_*$

$$1 = \delta_0(\varphi_k) = l(\varphi_k) = \int_\Omega g \varphi_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad \text{(dominated convergence)}$$

Contradiction, this shows that $(L^\infty(\Omega))^*$ contains more stuff than just L^1 . In fact \rightarrow is "a space of measures"

(ref: Riesz-Markov rep. theorem)

Advice: review remark above after proof of the theorem.

Proof: given $g \in L^q(\Omega)$, consider $\ell_g(f) = \int f g \, d\mu$
 linear, by Hölder $|\ell_g(f)| \leq \|f\|_{L^p} \|g\|_{L^q}$

So $\|\ell_g\|_{(L^p)^*} \leq \|g\|_{L^q}$. Recall: there is a well-defined linear map $J: L^q \rightarrow (L^p)^*$ w/ $\|J\|_{L^q; (L^p)^*} \leq 1$.

Step 1: check of isometry property. Two cases:

i) $1 < p < \infty$ so $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1 \Leftrightarrow p = \frac{q}{q-1} \Leftrightarrow p(q-1) = q$

hence (recall equality case for Hölder)

pick $f = g |g|^{q-2}$ so that $|f|^p = |g|^q$

thus $f \in L^p$ and $\|f\|_{L^p}^p = \int_{\Omega} |f|^p = \int_{\Omega} |g|^q$

i.e. $\|f\|_{L^p} = \|g\|_{L^q}^{q-1}$

.. $\ell_g(f) = \int_{\Omega} |g|^q = \|g\|_{L^q}^q \leq \|\ell_g\|_{(L^p)^*} \|f\|_{L^p} \equiv \|\ell_g\|_{(L^p)^*} \|g\|_{L^q}^{q-1}$

so $\|\ell_g\|_{(L^p)^*} \geq \|g\|_{L^q}$

Conclusion: $\|\ell_g\|_{(L^p)^*} \equiv \|g\|_{L^q}$

ii) $\boxed{p=1}$ ($\Leftrightarrow q=\infty$) so we have $g \in L^\infty$; given $\epsilon > 0$

pick $x \in \Omega$ s.t.

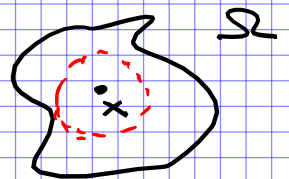
(*) $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \left| \frac{1}{\mu(B_r(x))} \int_{B_r(x)} g(y) \, d\mu(y) \right| \geq \|g\|_{L^\infty} - \epsilon$

why? \rightarrow definition of L^∞ norm

\rightarrow Lebesgue thm. for continuity in mean

now fix $r_* > 0$, $r_* < \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$

w/ $\left| \frac{1}{\mu(B_{r_*}(x))} \int_{B_{r_*}(x)} g \, d\mu \right| \geq \|g\|_{L^\infty} - 2\epsilon$



pick $f = \frac{1}{\mu(B_{r^*}(x))} \chi_{B_{r^*}(x)} \in L^1(\Omega)$

w/ $\|f\|_{L^1} = 1$

$$|\langle g, f \rangle| = \left| \frac{1}{\mu(B_{r^*}(x))} \int_{B_{r^*}(x)} g \, d\mu \right| \geq \|g\|_{L^\infty} - 2\epsilon$$

let $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+ \Rightarrow \boxed{\|Lg\|_{(L^1)^*} \geq \|g\|_{L^\infty}}$

Conclusion: equality must hold, i.e. $J: L^q \rightarrow (L^p)^*$ is an isometry.

Real issue: surjectivity (i.e. we must prove that every element of $(L^p)^*$ can be represented in this fashion, namely by integration against an element of L^q).

We'll now prove surjectivity, starting w/ $\boxed{1 < p < \infty}$

for this, we need the following lemma:

Lemma (1st Clarkson inequality) Given $1 < p < \infty$

let $u, v \in L^p(\Omega)$ w/ $\|u\|_{L^p} = \|v\|_{L^p} = 1$ and

set $\epsilon := \|v - u\|_{L^p} > 0$. Then:

i) for $2 \leq p < \infty$ $\left\| \frac{u+v}{2} \right\|_{L^p} \leq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon^p}{2^p} \right)^{1/p}$

ii) for $1 < p \leq 2$ $\left\| \frac{u+v}{2} \right\|_{L^p} \leq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon^q}{2^q} \right)^{1/q}$

Proof (lemma): we'll only show i), for ii) see Adams.

$\alpha^p + \beta^p \leq (\alpha^2 + \beta^2)^{p/2} \quad \forall \alpha, \beta \geq 0$

By q -homogeneity, we assume WLOG $\beta = 1$, but

$f(x) = (x^2 + 1)^{p/2} - x^p - 1 \rightarrow w [0, \infty)$

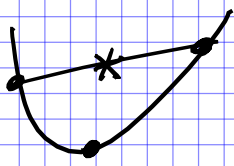
w/ $f(0) = 0$ so $f(x) \geq 0$

• just pick $\alpha = \left| \frac{a+b}{2} \right|$ $\beta = \left| \frac{a-b}{2} \right|$ $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

By the previous inequality:

$$\left| \frac{a+b}{2} \right|^p + \left| \frac{a-b}{2} \right|^p \leq \left(\left| \frac{a+b}{2} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{a-b}{2} \right|^2 \right)^{p/2}$$

$$\equiv \left(\frac{a^2 + b^2}{2} \right)^{p/2}$$



by convexity of f \rightarrow $\leq \frac{1}{2} \left((a^2)^{p/2} + (b^2)^{p/2} \right)$

$t \mapsto t^{p/2}$ (for $p \geq 2$) $\equiv \frac{1}{2} (|a|^p + |b|^p)$

• take $a = u(x)$ $b = v(x)$, specialise ineq. above and integrate over Ω . We get:

$$\left\| \frac{u+v}{2} \right\|_{L^p}^p \leq \frac{1}{2} (1+1) \cdot \left\| \frac{u-v}{2} \right\|_{L^p}^p$$

$$\equiv 1 - \frac{\epsilon^p}{2^p} \quad (\epsilon = \|v-u\|_{L^p})$$

$$\left\| \frac{u+v}{2} \right\|_{L^p} \leq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon^p}{2^p} \right)^{1/p}$$

□

Step 2.1 (surjectivity of J , $1 < p < \infty$)

Given $l \in (L^p(\Omega))^*$ wlog $l \neq 0$ (else pick $g \equiv 0$)

by scaling wlog $\|l\|_{(L^p)^*} = 1$. Pick a maximising seq. for the operator norm of l , i.e.

$$(f_k) \subset L^p(\Omega) \quad \text{w/} \quad \|f_k\|_{L^p} = 1$$

$$l(f_k) \rightarrow \|l\|_{(L^p)^*} = 1$$

Claim: (f_k) is a Cauchy sequence in $L^p(\Omega)$.

check claim:

$$1 + o(1) = \frac{1}{2} \left(l(f_k) + l(f_k) \right) = \frac{1}{2} (l(f_k + f_k))$$

$$\leq \underbrace{\|l\|_{(L^p)^*}}_{=1} \left\| \frac{f_k + f_k}{2} \right\|_{L^p} \leq \underbrace{\|l\|_{(L^p)^*}}_{=1} \left(1 - \frac{\|f_k - f_k\|_{L^p}^p}{2^p} \right)^{1/p}$$

Clarkson

So (by completeness) $f_n \rightarrow f$ in $L^p(\Omega)$

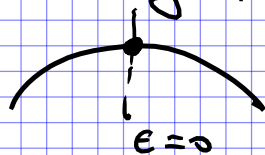
$$\text{w/ } \|f\|_{L^p} = 1, \quad l(f) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} l(f_n) = 1$$

Now we use a variational argument (related to 1st derivative test for f , which is a maximizer...) to prove that $l = l_g$

with $g = f |f|^{p-2} \in L^q(\Omega)$.

$$\text{Set } f_\epsilon := \frac{f + \epsilon \varphi}{\|f + \epsilon \varphi\|_{L^p}} \text{ for } \varphi \in L^p(\Omega)$$

For any fixed φ the $\epsilon \mapsto l(f_\epsilon)$ has a max at $\epsilon = 0$



$$\leadsto \left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} l(f_\epsilon) = 0 \quad \text{Euler-Lagrange equation}$$

Compute the derivative

$$\left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} l(f_\epsilon) = \frac{l(\varphi) - l(f) \left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} \|f + \epsilon \varphi\|_{L^p}}{\|f\|_{L^p}^2}$$

recall $\|f\|_{L^p} = 1$

$$\left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} \left(\int_{\Omega} |f + \epsilon \varphi|^p \right)^{1/p} = \frac{1}{p} \left(\int_{\Omega} |f + \epsilon \varphi|^p \right)^{1/p-1} \Big|_{\epsilon=0} \times$$

$\equiv 1$

$$\times \left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} \int_{\Omega} |f + \epsilon \varphi|^p = \frac{1}{p} \left(\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \right)_{\epsilon=0} \int_{\Omega} |f + \epsilon \varphi|^p$$

[trick: $|f + \epsilon \varphi|^p = (|f + \epsilon \varphi|^2)^{p/2} = \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} p |f|^{p-2} f \varphi d\mu$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \underbrace{f |f|^{p-2}}_{g} \varphi d\mu$$

$\in L^1$

so if we set $g = f |f|^{p-2} \in L^q(\Omega)$

we get (1st der. test)

$$0 = l(\varphi) - \underbrace{l(f)}_{=1} \int_{\Omega} g \varphi d\mu$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{l(\varphi) = \int_{\Omega} g \varphi d\mu \quad \forall \varphi \in L^p(\Omega)}$$

We proved surjectivity for $1 < p < \infty$. Argument above used Clarkson which is only true for $1 < p < \infty$. Thus $\boxed{p=1}$ needs a different proof.

Step 2.2 (surjectivity of J , for $\boxed{p=1}$)

Lemma: (setting above...), assume further $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$ (finite measure).

Then

$$\| \varphi \in \bigcap_{p \geq p_0} L^p \text{ w/ uniform estimate} \implies \varphi \in L^\infty \|$$

in fact $\boxed{\| \varphi \|_{L^\infty} \leq \liminf_{p \rightarrow \infty} \| \varphi \|_{L^p}}$

(actually: $\| \varphi \|_{L^\infty} = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \| \varphi \|_{L^p}$)

Pf. pick $\kappa a \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ note that $\mu(|\varphi| > a) > 0$

$$\mu(|\varphi| > a) = \mu(|\varphi|^p > a^p) \stackrel{\text{Markov}}{\leq} \frac{1}{a^p} \int_{\Omega} |\varphi|^p d\mu = \frac{1}{a^p} \| \varphi \|_{L^p}^p$$

$$\iff a \left(\mu(|\varphi| > a) \right)^{1/p} \leq \| \varphi \|_{L^p}$$

$$p \rightarrow \infty \quad a = \liminf_{p \rightarrow \infty} \| \varphi \|_{L^p}$$

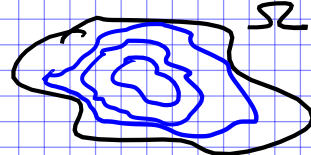
I can now let $a \rightarrow \text{ess sup } |\varphi| \equiv \| \varphi \|_{L^\infty}$

$$\| \varphi \|_{L^\infty} \leq \liminf_{p \rightarrow \infty} \| \varphi \|_{L^p} \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

Now, let's take care of Step 2.2 i.e. surjectivity of J for $p=1$.

We assume (for simplicity) $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$, else need use

approximation argument using an exhaustion of Ω



if $s \geq 1$ and $\mu(\Omega) < \infty$

$$L^s(\Omega) \xrightarrow{i_s} L^1(\Omega)$$

$$\|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)} \leq \mu(\Omega)^{1-1/s} \xrightarrow{(s \rightarrow 1)} 1$$

(why? by Hölder $\int |f| d\mu \leq \|f\|_{L^s} \mu(\Omega)^{1-1/s}$)

$$\frac{\|f\|_{L^1}}{\|f\|_{L^s}} \leq \mu(\Omega)^{1-1/s}$$

reverse inclusion at the level of duals, i.e.

$$(L^1(\Omega))^* \subset (L^s(\Omega))^*$$

why?

$$L^s(\Omega) \xrightarrow{i_s} L^1(\Omega)$$

given $\ell \in (L^1(\Omega))^*$ we consider

$$\ell \circ i_s \in (L^s(\Omega))^*$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \downarrow e \\ \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

w/

$$\limsup_{s \rightarrow 1} \|\ell\|_{(L^s(\Omega))^*} \leq \|\ell\|_{(L^1(\Omega))^*}$$

why?

$$\|\ell\|_{(L^1(\Omega))^*} = \sup_{\varphi \in L^1} |\ell(\varphi)|$$

$$\|\varphi\|_{L^1} \leq 1$$

$$\geq \sup_{\varphi \in L^s(\Omega)} |\ell(\varphi)|$$

$$\|i_s(\varphi)\|_{L^1} \leq 1$$

$$\|i_s(\varphi)\|_{L^1} \leq \|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)} \|\varphi\|_{L^s}$$

$$\sup_{\substack{\varphi \in L^s(\Omega) \\ \|\varphi\|_{L^s} \leq \|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)}^{-1}}} |\ell(\varphi)|$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\equiv \sup_{\substack{\psi \in L^s \\ \|\psi\|_{L^s(\Omega)} \leq 1}} |\ell(\psi)| \\ \uparrow \\ \psi &= \varphi \|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)}^{-1} |\ell(\psi)| \equiv \|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)}^{-1} \|\ell\|_{(L^s(\Omega))^*}$$

does not depend on ψ

Take the inequality we proved i.e. $\|\ell\|_{(L^1(\Omega))^*} \geq \|i_s\|_{L(L^s, L^1)}^{-1} \|\ell\|_{(L^s(\Omega))^*}$ and send $s \rightarrow \infty$ to get the claim.

Given $l \in (L^1(\Omega))^*$, $l = l_{g_1} \in L^1(\Omega)^*$

$$\text{Step 2.1} \implies l = l_g \text{ w/ } g = g_r \in L^r(\Omega) \\ \text{w/ } \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{s} = 1$$

$$\text{hence } l(\varphi) = l_{g_r}(\varphi) = \int_{\Omega} g_r \varphi \, d\mu \\ \forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$$

Pick $1 < s < s'$ duals $r' < r < \infty$ have $\forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$

$$l_{g_r}(\varphi) = l_{g_{r'}}(\varphi) \implies \int_{\Omega} g_r \varphi \, d\mu = \int_{\Omega} g_{r'} \varphi \, d\mu \\ \implies l(\varphi)''$$

$$\iff \int_{\Omega} (g_r - g_{r'}) \varphi \, d\mu = 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$$

lemma (fund. lemma of Calc. Var.) $\implies \boxed{g_r = g_{r'}}$

This is true for any given couple $r' < r < \infty$ thus

$$g := g_r (= g_{r'}) \in \bigcap_{r < \infty} L^r(\Omega) \text{ w/}$$

$$\|g\|_{L^r} = \|g_r\|_{L^r} \stackrel{\uparrow}{=} \|l_{g_r}\|_{(L^s)^*} = \|l\|_{(L^s)^*} \\ \text{Step 1/2.1}$$

$$\text{so } \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \|g\|_{L^r} = \limsup_{s \rightarrow 1} \|l\|_{(L^s)^*}$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{above}} \leq \|l\|_{(L^1)^*}$$

by the lemma $g \in L^\infty$ w/ $\|g\|_{L^\infty} \leq \|l\|_{(L^1)^*}$

so $(p=1)$ $l = l_g$ for $\uparrow \implies \exists$ surjective \blacksquare