

## 7.2. Convolution

This section is devoted to establishing various approximation results, a typical example being lemma 7.20 previously used in Plancherel's theorem. The main tool is convolution which we proceed to define.

Def. 7.14. Let  $f_1, f_2: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  measurable functions and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$t \mapsto f_1(x-t) f_2(t)$$

is in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then we define

$$f_1 * f_2(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_1(x-t) f_2(t) dm(t).$$

We recall the following result from Analysis IV  
[see Iacobelli, Thm 3.7].

Prop. 7.15 Let  $1 \leq p \leq +\infty$ ,  $f_1 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and  $f_2 \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then for almost every  
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $t \mapsto f_1(x-t)f_2(t)$  is in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and  $\|f_1 * f_2\|_p \leq \|f_1\|_1 \|f_2\|_p$ .

If  $f_1 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $f_2 \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  then

for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $t \mapsto f_1(x-t)f_2(t)$  is in  
 $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f_1 * f_2 \in C^b(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Cor. 7.15.A If  $f_1, f_2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  then

$f_1 * f_2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\|f_1 * f_2\|_1 \leq \|f_1\|_1 \|f_2\|_1$

and  $\widehat{f_1 * f_2} = \widehat{f_1} \cdot \widehat{f_2}$ .

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$L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a fundamental example of (commu-  
tative) Banach algebra. This algebra however  
has no identity as is easy to see using  
that  $\{ \hat{f} : f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \}$  is norm dense  
in  $C_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . It has, as we will see, approximate  
identities, that is a sequence  $\delta_\varepsilon \in C_{00}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$   
 $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\delta_\varepsilon * f \rightarrow f$  in  $L^1$ ,  
 $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\delta_\varepsilon * f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

The latter property comes from the following  
important smoothing property of convolution:

Prop. 7.16. If  $f_1 \in C_{00}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  
 $f_2 \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  then  $f_1 * f_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (f_1 * f_2) = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_i} * f_2 \quad 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

Here and in the sequel we will need the following lemma which is a verification using Fubini's thm.

Lemma 7.17 Let  $(Y, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space,  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  an open subset

and  $f: D \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

a measurable function such that:

(1)  $x \mapsto f(x, y)$  is in  $C^1(D)$   $\forall y \in Y$ .

(2)  $\forall x \in D, 1 \leq i \leq n, y \mapsto f(x, y)$  and

$y \mapsto \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x, y)$  are in  $L^1(Y, \mu)$ .

Define  $F(x) := \int_Y f(x, y) d\mu(y)$

$$G_i(x) = \int_Y \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x, y) d\mu(y).$$

If  $G_i \in C^1(D)$   $1 \leq i \leq n$  then

$F \in C^1(D)$  and  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i} = G_i$ .

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Proof (sketch). Let  $x \in D$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$

with  $x + tv \in D \quad \forall |t| \leq \varepsilon$ . Then

$$f(x+tv, y) - f(x, y) = t \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x, y) v_i + \int_0^t \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x+sv, y) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x, y) \right) v_i ds$$

Integrating over  $y$  and using Fubini we get

$$F(x+tv) - F(x) = t \sum_{i=1}^n G_i(x) v_i + \int_0^t \sum_{i=1}^n (G_i(x+sv) - G_i(x)) v_i ds$$

Now use the continuity of  $G_i$  to conclude

that 
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t (G_i(x+sv) - G_i(x)) ds = 0.$$

Hence  $F \in C^1(D)$  and  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i} = G_i$ .

□

Proof of Prop. 7.16.

Let  $r_1 > 0$  with  $\text{supp}(f_1) \subset B_{<r_1}(0)$

and let  $D = B_{<r}(0)$  with  $r$  arbitrary.

If  $\chi_{r+r_1} = \chi_{B_{<r+r_1}(0)}$  then  $\forall x \in D$

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 * f_2(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_1(x-y) f_2(y) \, d\mu(y) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_1(x-y) \chi_{r+r_1}(y) f_2(y) \, d\mu(y). \end{aligned}$$

Now consider  $f: D \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$$(x, y) \mapsto f_1(x-y) \chi_{r+r_1}(y) f_2(y)$$

The point is now that since  $f_2 \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$

$\chi_{r+r_1} \cdot f_2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then the first and

second conditions of Lemma 7.17 are satisfied.

Next we have:

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$$G_i(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial x_i}(x-y) \chi_{r+r_1}(y) \phi_2(y) d\mu(y)$$
$$= \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial x_i} * (\chi_{r+r_1} \cdot \phi_2)(x)$$

which is continuous by Prop. 7.15.

Now apply Lemma 7.17.  $\square$

Now we turn to the construction of approximate identity.

Let  $\delta \in C_{00}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $r > 0$ , satisfy

$$(7.18) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \delta(y) d\mu(y) = 1 \text{ and } \text{supp } \delta \subset B_{\mathbb{R}^n}(0, r)$$
$$\delta \geq 0.$$

Define

$$(7.19) \quad \delta_{\varepsilon}(y) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \delta\left(\frac{y}{\varepsilon}\right), \quad \varepsilon > 0.$$

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Lemma: Assume  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$\text{supp } \varphi_1 \subset K_1$ ,  $\text{supp } \varphi_2 \subset K_2$ . With  $K_1, K_2$

~~say~~ compact. Then

$$\text{supp } (\varphi_1 * \varphi_2) \subset K_1 + K_2$$

which is compact.

Proof:  $\varphi_1 * \varphi_2(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_1(x-y) \varphi_2(y) dm(y).$

$$= \int_{K_2} \varphi_1(x-y) \varphi_2(y) dm(y).$$

If now  $x \notin K_1 + K_2$ , then  $x-y \notin K_1$

$\forall y \in K_2$ . So for  $x \notin K_1 + K_2$

$$\varphi_1(x-y) \varphi_2(y) = 0 \quad \forall y \in K_2.$$

□



Then we have:

$$(7.20) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \delta_\varepsilon(y) \, d\mu(y) = 1, \quad \text{supp } \delta_\varepsilon \subset B(0, \varepsilon).$$

Prop. 7.18

(1) If  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}^n)$  then  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \delta_\varepsilon * f = f$   
uniformly on compact sets.

(2) If  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $1 \leq p < +\infty$  then

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\delta_\varepsilon * f - f\|_p = 0.$$



Proof:

$$(1) \quad \delta_\varepsilon * f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \delta_\varepsilon(y) f(x-y) \, d\mu(y) \quad (\text{change of var.})$$

Hence, taking into account that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \delta_\varepsilon(y) \, d\mu(y) = 1$$

We get

$$\delta_\varepsilon * f(x) - f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \delta_\varepsilon(y) (f(x-y) - f(x)) \, d\mu(y)$$

Thus

$$|\delta_\varepsilon * f(x) - f(x)| \leq \sup_{\substack{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ |y| < \varepsilon}} |f(x-y) - f(x)|$$

Which leads to (1) taking into account that  $f$  is uniformly continuous on compact sets.

(2) Let  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$  and  $\varphi \in C_{00}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $\|f - \varphi\|_p < \varepsilon$ . (recall  $p < +\infty$ )

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\delta_\varepsilon * f - f\|_p &\leq \|\delta_\varepsilon * f - \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi\|_p + \|\delta_\varepsilon * \varphi - \varphi\|_p \\ &\quad + \|\varphi - f\|_p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } \|\delta_\varepsilon * f - \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi\|_p &= \|\delta_\varepsilon * (f - \varphi)\|_p \\ &\leq \|\delta_\varepsilon\|_1 \cdot \|f - \varphi\|_p \quad (\text{Prop. 7.15}) \\ &= \|f - \varphi\|_p. \end{aligned}$$

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Hence  $\| \delta_\varepsilon * f - f \|_p < 2 \cdot \varepsilon + \| \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi - \varphi \|_p.$

Now

lemma above

$$\text{supp}(\delta_\varepsilon * \varphi) \subset B_{<\varepsilon \cdot r}(0) + \text{supp} \varphi$$

$$\subset B_{<r}(0) + \text{supp} \varphi =: K.$$

Thus

$$\| \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi - \varphi \|_p^p = \int_K | \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi(y) - \varphi(y) |^p \, d\mu(y)$$

$$\leq \sup_{y \in K} | \delta_\varepsilon * \varphi(y) - \varphi(y) |^p \cdot \mu(K)$$

$$\downarrow \quad \varepsilon \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{by (1).}$$

0

□

Here is an important Corollary:

Cor. 7.19: Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be open and

$1 \leq p < +\infty$ . Then  $C_{\text{bd}}^\infty(\Omega)$  is dense in  $L^p(\Omega)$ .

Lemma:  $K \subset \Omega$  compact. Then  $\exists \varepsilon > 0$

s.t.  $K + B_{<\varepsilon}(0) \subset \Omega$ ,

Proof Since  $\Omega$  is locally compact and

$m|_{\Omega}$  is Borel regular we know that

$C_{00}(\Omega)$  is dense in  $L^p(\Omega)$ .

Let  $f \in C_{00}(\Omega)$ . Since  $\text{supp}(f) \subset \Omega$

$\Omega$  is open and  $\text{supp}(f)$  is compact there

is  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  with  $\text{supp}(f) + B_{\leq \varepsilon_0}(0) \subset \Omega$ .

Then  $\forall \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$ ,  $\text{supp}(\delta_{\varepsilon} * f) \subset \Omega$ ,

$\delta_{\varepsilon} * f \in C_{00}^{\infty}(\Omega)$  (Prop. 7.16) and

$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|\delta_{\varepsilon} * f - f\|_p = 0$  by Prop 7.18. (2).

□

Here is an application that's used in Plancherel:

Lemma 7.20 Let  $1 \leq p_1, p_2 < +\infty$ , and

$f \in L^{p_1}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap L^{p_2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then  $\exists (\varphi_k)_{k \geq 1}$

in  $C_{00}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $\varphi_k \rightarrow f$  in  $L^{p_1}$  and  $L^{p_2}$ .

Proof: Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \geq 1$ ,  $\chi_k = \chi_{\substack{B(0) \\ \leq k}}$ .

Then  $f \cdot \chi_k \longrightarrow f$  in  $L^{p_1}$  and  $L^{p_2}$ .

[give argument].

Next,  $f \cdot \chi_k \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and has ~~support~~ <sup>compact</sup>

support. Hence (lemma above)

$$\sum_{1/k} * f \cdot \chi_k$$

has compact support and is in  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  (Prop. 7.16)

Thus  $\sum_{1/k} * f \cdot \chi_k \in C_{\infty}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Now by Prop. 7.18,  $\sum_{1/k} * f \cdot \chi_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} f \cdot \chi_k$

in  $L^{p_1}$  and  $L^{p_2}$ . Thus by a diagonal argument

$\exists (\delta_m)_{m \geq 1}$  of integers such that

$$\sum_{1/\delta_m} * f \cdot \chi_{\delta_m} \longrightarrow f \text{ in } L^{p_1} \text{ and } L^{p_2}.$$



### 7.3. Weak derivatives.

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be open. Recall that for  $f \in C^\infty(\Omega)$  and  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ , integration by parts gives:

$$\int_{\Omega} f D^\alpha \varphi = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_{\Omega} (D^\alpha f) \cdot \varphi$$

This motivates the following def.:

Def. 7.21 Let  $f \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ . ~~The~~ ~~is~~

A function  $h \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  is a weak  $\alpha$ -th partial derivative of  $f$  if

$$\int_{\Omega} h \cdot \varphi = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_{\Omega} f \cdot D^\alpha \varphi \quad \forall \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$$

Since  $\varphi$  and  $D^\alpha \varphi$  are compactly supported, these integrals make sense.

First we want to show that if it exists, such a weak derivative is unique. This follows from

Lemma 7.22 With  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  open as above and  $h \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ . If

$$\int h(x) \varphi(x) \, d\mu(x) = 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in C_{00}^{\infty}(\Omega)$$

then  $h = 0$  almost everywhere.

Proof: Let  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $r > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  with

$$B(x) \subset \Omega. \quad \text{Set } \chi = \chi_{\substack{B(x) \\ \substack{\varepsilon r + \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon r}}}$$

Observe that if we had  $h \in L^2_{loc}(\Omega)$

then  $\chi \cdot h \in L^2(B_{\varepsilon r}(x))$  and if

$\varphi \in C_{00}^{\infty}(B_{\varepsilon r}(x))$  we have

$$\int \chi \cdot h \cdot \varphi = 0 \quad \text{which since}$$

$C_{00}^{\infty}(B_{\leq r}(x))$  is dense in  $L^2(B_{\leq r}(x))$  (Cor 7.9)

this would imply  $h \cdot \chi = 0$  (a.e.) and since

$B_{\leq r}(x) \subset \Omega$  is arbitrary,  $h = 0$  (a.e.)

So we modify this idea:  $\chi \cdot h \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

and we will consider  $\delta_{\varepsilon} * \chi \cdot h$  ~~which~~

where  $\text{supp}(\delta) \subset B_{\leq 1}(0)$  and  $\delta(t) = \delta(-t)$   
 $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Now  $\forall \varphi \in C_{00}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

$$\int (\delta_{\varepsilon} * \chi \cdot h) \cdot \varphi = \int \chi \cdot h (\delta_{\varepsilon} * \varphi)$$

[Computation]. If now  $\text{supp} \varphi \subset B_{\leq r}(x)$

then  $\text{supp}(\delta_{\varepsilon} * \varphi) \subset B_{\leq r+\varepsilon}(x) \subset \Omega$ .

Hence  $\int (\delta_{\varepsilon} * \chi \cdot h) \cdot \varphi = \int \chi \cdot h (\delta_{\varepsilon} * \varphi) = 0$

for such  $\varphi$ 's. Next by Prop. 7.16,

$$\delta_{\varepsilon} * \chi \cdot h \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$



and hence its restriction to  $B_{\leftarrow r}(x)$  is  $L^2$ .

Since  $C_{00}^{\infty}(B_{\leftarrow r}(x))$  is dense in  $L^2(B_{\leftarrow r}(x))$

we get  $\int_{\Sigma} \chi \cdot h = 0$  in  $B_{\leftarrow r}(x)$ . Since

$$\int_{\Sigma} \chi \cdot h \rightarrow \chi \cdot h \text{ in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

we get  $\chi \cdot h = 0$  a.e. in  $B_{\leftarrow r}(x)$

and hence  $h = 0$  a.e. in  $B_{\leftarrow r}(x)$ .

□

Notation 7.23 If  $h$  is the weak  $\alpha$ -th partial derivative of  $f$  we'll write  $h = D_w^{\alpha} f$ .

In particular it follows from lemma 7.22

that if  $f \in C^{\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $D_w^{\alpha} f = D^{\alpha} f$ .

Example 7.24. Let  $r > 0$  and  $f(t) = |t|^r$ .

Then  $f \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R})$  and

$$\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)_w f(t) = r \operatorname{sgn}(t) |t|^{r-1}$$

which is verified directly by integration by parts.

Now we are in a position to define the Sobolev spaces  $W^{p,k}(\Omega)$ :

Def. 7.25  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  open subset,  $p \geq 1$ ,

$k \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$f \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ :

$$W^{p,k}(\Omega) = \left\{ \text{set of } f : D_w^\alpha f \text{ exists} \right.$$

$$\left. \forall |\alpha| \leq k \text{ and } D_w^\alpha f \in L^p(\Omega) \right\}.$$

On  $W^{p,k}(\Omega)$  we put the norm,

$$\|f\|_{p,k} = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|D_w^\alpha f\|_p.$$

Then we have

Prop. 7.26  $W^{p,k}(\Omega)$  is a Banach space.

Proof: Let  $(f_\ell)_{\ell \geq 1}$  be a Cauchy sequence in  $W^{p,k}(\Omega)$ .

Then  $\forall |\alpha| \leq k$ ,  $(D_w^\alpha f_\ell)_{\ell \geq 1}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $L^p(\mathcal{R})$ , hence there is a limit  $f^\alpha \in L^p(\mathcal{R})$ ; in particular  $f_\ell \rightarrow f$ .

Now by definition we have  $\forall \varphi \in C_{00}^\infty(\mathcal{R})$

$$\int f_\ell D^\alpha \varphi = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int (D_w^\alpha f_\ell) \cdot \varphi.$$

Now  $\varphi \in L^q(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $D_w^\alpha f_\ell \in L^p(\mathcal{R})$

and  $L^p$ -converges to  $f^\alpha$ , hence

$$\lim_\ell \int f_\ell D^\alpha \varphi = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int f^\alpha \cdot \varphi$$

Next  $f_\ell \rightarrow f$  in  $L^p$  and hence

$$\int f D^\alpha \varphi = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int f^\alpha \varphi$$

which implies  $D_w^\alpha f = f^\alpha$ .  $\square$

Remark 7.27  $W^{2,k}(\Omega)$  is a Hilbert space.

Indeed for  $f_1, f_2 \in W^{2,k}(\Omega)$ ,

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \langle D_w^\alpha f_1, D_w^\alpha f_2 \rangle$$

is well defined, and the norm

$$\|f\| = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|D_w^\alpha f\|_2^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

is equivalent to  $\|\cdot\|_{2,k}$ .

Let  $C_{p,k}^\infty(\Omega) = \left\{ f \in C^\infty(\Omega) : \right.$

$$\left. \|D_w^\alpha f\|_p < +\infty \forall |\alpha| \leq k \right\}$$

Then  $C_{p,k}^\infty(\Omega) \subset W^{p,k}(\Omega)$  and it is

a fact that the former is dense in the

latter. In the sequel we will show this for

$\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ .

To this end we collect some simple facts about weak derivatives.

Lemma 7.28

(a) If  $f \in W^{r,k}(\Omega)$  and  $|\alpha| + |\beta| \leq k$

then  $D_w^\alpha (D_w^\beta f) = D_w^{\alpha+\beta} f$ . (addition of multi-indices)

(b) If  $f \in W^{r,k}(\Omega)$  and  $\varphi \in C_{\infty}^{\infty}(\Omega)$

then  $\varphi \cdot f \in W^{r,k}(\Omega)$ .

(c) If  $\varphi \in C_{\infty}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $f \in W^{r,k}(\mathbb{R}^n)$

then  $\varphi * f \in C_{p,k}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$D^\alpha (\varphi * f) = \varphi * D_w^\alpha f \quad \forall |\alpha| \leq k.$$

Proof (a) We have  $\forall \varphi \in C_{\infty}^{\infty}(\Omega)$

$$\begin{aligned} \int D_w^\alpha (D_w^\beta f) \varphi &= (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int (D_w^\beta f) D^\alpha \varphi \\ &= (-1)^{|\alpha| + |\beta|} \int f D^\beta D^\alpha \varphi \end{aligned}$$

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But  $D^3 D^\alpha \varphi = D^{\beta+\alpha} \varphi$ , hence

$$= (-1)^{|\alpha+\beta|} \int f D^{\beta+\alpha} \varphi$$

$$= \int (D_w^{\beta+\alpha} f) \varphi$$

Which by uniqueness (lemma 7.22) implies

$$D_w^\alpha (D_w^\beta f) = D_w^{\alpha+\beta} f.$$

(b) We may assume  $k \geq 1$ : let  $\varphi \in C_{00}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^1)$ ,

$$\int (\varphi \cdot f) \partial_j^k \varphi = \int f \varphi \cdot \partial_j^k \varphi = \int f \left[ \partial_j^k (\varphi \cdot \varphi) - \varphi \partial_j^k \varphi \right]$$

$$= \int f \partial_j^k (\varphi \cdot \varphi) - \int f \varphi \partial_j^k \varphi$$

$$= - \int (\partial_j^k f) \varphi \cdot \varphi - \int f \partial_j^k \varphi \cdot \varphi$$

$$= - \int \left[ (\partial_j^k f) \cdot \varphi + f \partial_j^k \varphi \right] \cdot \varphi$$

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Since  $\partial_j^\gamma f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$   
so is  $(\partial_j^\gamma \varphi) f + f (\partial_j \varphi)$ . Hence  
 $\partial_j^w(\varphi \cdot f)$  exists, is in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$\partial_j^w(\varphi \cdot f) = \varphi \cdot \partial_j^w f + f \partial_j \varphi.$$

One completes the proof by recurrence on  $|\alpha|$

using 
$$D^\alpha(\varphi \cdot \psi) = \sum_{0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} D^\beta \varphi D^{\alpha-\beta} \psi.$$

(c) We know that by Prop. 7.16:

$$\varphi \times D_w^\alpha f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad |\alpha| \leq k$$

and by Prop. 7.15,

$$\varphi \times D_w^\alpha f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad |\alpha| \leq k.$$

~~Hence~~. Thus it suffices to show that

$$D^\alpha(\varphi \times f) = \varphi \times D_w^\alpha f.$$

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We have  $\forall \varphi \in C_{00}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ :

$$\int (\varphi * D_w^{\alpha} f) \psi$$

$$= \int (D_w^{\alpha} f) \check{\varphi} * \psi \quad \text{where } \check{\varphi}(x) = \varphi(-x).$$

$$= (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int f \underbrace{D^{\alpha} (\check{\varphi} * \psi)}_{\check{\varphi} * D^{\alpha} \psi}$$

$$= (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int (\varphi * f) D^{\alpha} \psi$$

$$= \int D^{\alpha} (\varphi * f) \cdot \psi$$

which implies  $D^{\alpha} (\varphi * f) = \varphi * D_w^{\alpha} f$ .

□



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With this we can now prove

Prop. 7.29  $k \leq p < +\infty$ ; then  $C_{p,k}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$   
is dense in  $W^{p,k}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Proof: Fix  $(\delta_{\varepsilon})$  approximate identity and

let  $f \in W^{p,k}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then by lemma 7.28 c.)

we know that  $\delta_{\varepsilon} * f \in C_{p,k}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$D^{\alpha}(\delta_{\varepsilon} * f) = \delta_{\varepsilon} * D_w^{\alpha} f, \quad |\alpha| \leq k.$$

By Prop. 7.18(2) we have  $\forall |\alpha| \leq k$

$$\delta_{\varepsilon} * D_w^{\alpha} f \rightarrow D_w^{\alpha} f \quad \text{in } L^p(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Hence  $D^{\alpha}(\delta_{\varepsilon} * f) \rightarrow D_w^{\alpha} f$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and hence  $\| \delta_{\varepsilon} * f - f \|_{p,k} \rightarrow 0$ .  $\square$

## 7.4. The Sobolev embedding theorems.

The aim of this section is to prove

Thm 7.30 (Sobolev) If  $f \in W^{2,k}(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and  $k > r + \frac{n}{2}$  then  $f \in C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Moreover the inclusion  $\sum_{k \geq r} W^{2,k}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$

is bounded.

Remark 7.31. More precisely,  $f$  coincides a.e.

with a bounded  $C^r$ -function. The norm

on  $C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is

$$\|f\| = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq r} \|D^\alpha f\|_b.$$

Interestingly, Fourier transform and in particular

Plancherel's theorem will be crucial, while

these objects don't appear in the statement.

We will need 3 lemmas. The first is an extension to  $W^{2,k}$  of Prop 7.5. (2).

Lemma 7.32.  $f \in W^{2,k}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then

$$\forall |\alpha| \leq k : \widehat{(\partial_w^\alpha f)}(\xi) = i^{|\alpha|} \xi^\alpha \widehat{f}(\xi).$$

Here  $\wedge : L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is the

$L^2$ -Fourier transform.  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{In particular } \xi^\alpha \widehat{f} \in L^2 \\ \forall |\alpha| \leq k. \end{array} \right.$

Proof:

By induction on  $k \geq 1$ ; here we show

$k=1$ . We have:  $\partial_j f \in L^2$ ; then  $\forall \varphi \in C_{0,0}^\infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \widehat{\partial_j f}, \widehat{\varphi} \rangle &\stackrel{Pl.}{=} \langle \partial_j f, \varphi \rangle \\ &= - \langle f, \partial_j \varphi \rangle \\ &\stackrel{Pl.}{=} - \langle \widehat{f}, \widehat{\partial_j \varphi} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

But by Prop. 7.5 (2):  $\widehat{\partial_j \varphi}(\xi) = i \cdot \xi_j \widehat{\varphi}(\xi)$ .

$$\text{Thus } - \langle \widehat{f}, \widehat{\partial_j \varphi} \rangle = \int \xi_j \widehat{f}(\xi) \overline{\widehat{\varphi}(\xi)}$$

and since  $\{ \widehat{\varphi} : \varphi \in C_{00}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \}$  is

dense in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  (follows from Cor. 7.19

and Plancherel) we get:

$$\widehat{(\partial_j^w f)}(\xi) = i \cdot \xi_j \widehat{f}(\xi).$$



Remark: The idea of Sobolev's thm. is to exploit Lemma 7.32 and Plancherel:

indeed if  $D_w^\alpha f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , then  $\xi^\alpha \widehat{f} \in L^2$

and if  $k$  is large enough, Fourier inversion

gives a bound <sup>sup</sup> on  $f$  and some derivatives:

here the hypothesis  $k > r + \frac{n}{2}$  is crucial.

For the sake of applications we formulate the next lemma in terms of inverse F.T.

Recall: for  $h \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

$$\tilde{h}(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h(\xi) e^{i\langle x, \xi \rangle} d\mu(\xi).$$

Lemma 7.33 Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $h \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and assume  $\xi^\alpha h \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \forall |\alpha| \leq r$ .

Then  $\tilde{h} \in C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$D^\alpha \tilde{h}(x) = i^{|\alpha|} \widetilde{(\xi^\alpha h)}(x).$$

Proof: This is again a case where we want to exchange derivative with integration.

$r=1$ . 
$$\tilde{h}(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h(\xi) e^{i\langle x, \xi \rangle} d\mu(\xi).$$

We want to apply lemma 7.17 to

$$f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad f(x, \xi) = h(\xi) e^{i \langle x, \xi \rangle};$$

then indeed

$$(1) \quad x \rightarrow f(x, \xi) \text{ is in } C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

$$(2) \quad \xi \rightarrow f(x, \xi) \text{ and } \xi \rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j}(x, \xi)$$

$\in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , since

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j}(x, \xi) = h(\xi) i \cdot \xi_j e^{i \langle x, \xi \rangle}.$$

$$\text{Moreover: } F(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x, \xi) \, d\mu(\xi)$$

$$\text{and } G_j(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j}(x, \xi) \, d\mu(\xi)$$

$$\text{read resp. } \tilde{h}(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h(\xi) e^{i \langle x, \xi \rangle} \, d\mu(\xi),$$

$$G_j(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h(\xi) i \cdot \xi_j e^{i \langle x, \xi \rangle} \, d\mu(\xi)$$

Thus lemma 7-17 implies  $\tilde{h} \in C_b^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$

and  $\partial_j \tilde{h} = i \widehat{(\xi_j \cdot h)}$ .  $\square$

Here comes the crucial

Lemma 7.34. Let  $r \geq 0$ . Assume,  
 $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\widehat{f} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $|\alpha| \leq r$ .

Then  $f \in C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$D^\alpha f = i^{|\alpha|} \widehat{(\xi^\alpha \hat{f})}. \quad \forall |\alpha| \leq r.$$

In particular  $\|D^\alpha f\|_b \leq \|\xi^\alpha \hat{f}\|_1$ .

Remark: The case  $r=0$  is already

interesting as it extends the Fourier

inversion formula to the case,  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,

$$\hat{f} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Proof: Apply the preceding lemma to

$$h = \hat{f} : \text{ then we get } \tilde{h} \in C_b^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

$$\text{and } D^\alpha \tilde{h}(x) = i^{|\alpha|} \widehat{(\xi^\alpha h)}(x).$$

But now  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and hence by Pl.

$\hat{f} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , which implies  $\tilde{h} = f$ .



Proof of Sobolev.

By Lemma 7.32 we have  $\sum^{\alpha} \hat{f} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$

$\forall |\alpha| \leq k$  and we want to apply

Lemma 7.34, so we must show that

$\sum^{\alpha} \hat{f} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \forall |\alpha| \leq r$  and it is

here that the hypothesis  $k > r + \frac{n}{2}$  enters.

Split  $\sum^{\alpha} \hat{f} = h_{1,\alpha} \cdot h_{2,\alpha}$  where

$$h_{1,\alpha}(\xi) = (1 + \|\xi\|^k) \hat{f}$$

$$h_{2,\alpha}(\xi) = \frac{\sum^{\alpha}}{1 + \|\xi\|^k}, \text{ this for } |\alpha| \leq r.$$

Then:

$$\|\sum^{\alpha} \hat{f}\|_1 \leq \|h_{1,\alpha}\|_2 \cdot \|h_{2,\alpha}\|_2.$$



Let's estimate  $\|h_1\|_2$  by relating it to the Sobolev norm of  $f$ , using Plancherel.

Now

$$\|f\| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j| \leq n^{1-\frac{1}{k}} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j|^k \right)^{1/k}$$

hence  $\|f\|^k \leq n^{k-1} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j|^k \right)$ .

Hence  $|h_1| \leq n^{k-1} \left( |\hat{f}| + \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j^k \hat{f}| \right)$

Hence  $\|h_1\|_2 \leq n^{k-1} \left( \|\hat{f}\|_2 + \sum_{j=1}^n \|\xi_j^k \hat{f}\|_2 \right)$ .

Which by lemma 7.32 and Plancherel

implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|h_1\|_2 &\leq n^{k-1} \left( \|f\|_2 + \sum_{j=1}^n \|\xi_j^k f\|_2 \right) \\ &\leq n^{k-1} \|f\|_{2,k} \end{aligned}$$

Next:

$$|h_{2,\alpha}(\xi)| = \frac{|\xi^\alpha|}{1 + \|\xi\|^k}$$

Now  $|\xi^\alpha| = |\xi_1|^{\alpha_1} \cdots |\xi_n|^{\alpha_n}$  and

$$|\xi_j|^{\alpha_j} \leq \|\xi\|^{\alpha_j}$$

hence  $|h_{2,\alpha}(\xi)| \leq \frac{\|\xi\|^{|\alpha|}}{1 + \|\xi\|^k} \leq \frac{1 + \|\xi\|^r}{1 + \|\xi\|^k}$

since  $|\alpha| \leq r$ .

Thus

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{(1 + \|\xi\|^r)^2}{(1 + \|\xi\|^k)^2} d\mu(\xi) = \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{n-1} (1+t^r)^2}{(1+t^k)^2} dt$$

$$= c_n \int_0^\infty dt t^{n-1} \frac{(1+t^r)^2}{(1+t^k)^2} < +\infty$$

$$\Leftrightarrow k > r + \frac{n}{2}.$$

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Thus let ~~let~~ this latter constant  $\sqrt{C(n, r, k)}$

$$\text{Then } \|\Sigma^\alpha \hat{f}\|_1 \leq C(n, r, k) n^{k-1} \|f\|_{2, k}$$

And hence by Lemma 7.34:

$$\|D^\alpha f\|_b \leq C(n, k, k) n^{k-1} \|f\|_{2, k}$$

$$\forall |\alpha| \leq r.$$

