

Let $I = (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$. We shall study the spaces $W^{1,p}(I)$ in some detail.

Theorem (T.18)

(i) Let $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. Then $\exists \tilde{u} \in C^0(\bar{I})$ s.t.
 $u = \tilde{u}$ a.e., and for $x_0, x \in I$

$$\tilde{u}(x) = \tilde{u}(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x u'(t) dt.$$

(One thus typically replaces u by its continuous representative \tilde{u} .)

(ii) Conversely, if $u \in L^1_{loc}(I)$ satisfies $u(x) = u(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x v(t) dt$ a.e. where $v \in L^1_{loc}(I)$, then $u \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(I)$, and its weak derivative is $u' = v$. If $u, u' \in L^p(I)$, then $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$.

For the proof, we need:

Lemma (L.9) Let $u \in L^1_{loc}(I)$, and suppose the distributional derivative of u vanishes; that is, $\int_a^b u \varphi' dx = 0 \forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$. Then u is constant a.e.

Proof Fix $\chi \in C_c^\infty(I)$ with $\int_a^b \chi dx = 1$.

Let $\psi \in C_c^\infty(I)$. Then $\tilde{\psi}(x) = \psi(x) - c_0 \chi(x) \in C_c^\infty(I)$

has $\int_a^b \tilde{\psi}(x) dx = 0$ if we take $c_0 := \int_a^b \psi dx$.

In this case, $\varphi(x) := \int_a^x \tilde{\psi}(t) dt$ defines an element $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$,

and we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \int_a^b u \varphi' dx \\
&= \int_a^b u \tilde{\varphi} dx \\
&= \int_a^b u \psi dx - c \int_a^b u \chi dx \\
&= \int_a^b u \psi dx - \int_a^b \psi dx \cdot c \quad (c := \int_a^b u \chi dx) \\
&= \int_a^b (u - c) \psi dx.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\psi \in C_c^\infty(I)$ is arbitrary, we get $u - c = 0$ a.e. by Theorem (T.2). \square

Proof of Theorem (T.18)

(i). Set $v(x) = \int_{x_0}^x u'(t) dt$. Thus $v \in C^0(I)$; we claim that v has weak derivative u' . To see this, let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$,

$$\text{then } -\int_a^b v \varphi' dx = -\int_a^b \left(\int_{x_0}^x u'(t) dt \right) \varphi'(x) dx$$

$$= -\int_a^{x_0} \int_a^x u'(t) \varphi'(x) dt dx$$

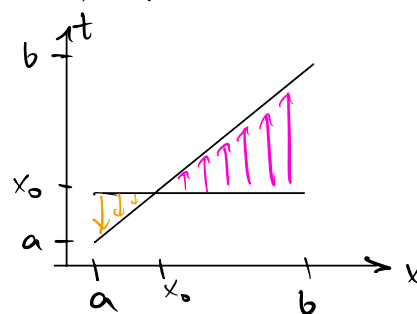
$$- \int_{x_0}^b \int_{x_0}^x u'(t) \varphi'(x) dt dx$$

$$= + \int_a^{x_0} \int_a^t u'(t) \varphi'(x) dx dt$$

$$- \int_{x_0}^b \int_t^b u'(t) \varphi'(x) dx dt$$

$$= \int_a^{x_0} u'(t) \varphi(t) dt + \int_{x_0}^b u'(t) \varphi(t) dt$$

$$= \int_a^b u' \varphi dt.$$



• set now $f = u - v \in L^1_{loc}(I)$; then $\forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$,

$$\int_a^b f \varphi' dx = \int_a^b u \varphi' dx - \int_a^b v \varphi' dx = - \int_a^b u' \varphi dx + \int_a^b u' \varphi dx = 0$$

Lemma (L.9)^a
 $\Rightarrow f \equiv c$ a.e., so $u(x) = c + \int_{x_0}^x u'(t) dt$ a.e.

where $c = f(x_0) = u(x_0) - v(x_0) = u(x_0)$.

More precisely, we need to pick x_0 here to be a Lebesgue point of u : $u(x_0) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} u(t) dt$. This implies that in $u(x) = c + v(x)$ we can average over $x \in (x_0, x_0+\delta)$ to get $u(x_0) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} u(x) dx = c + \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} v(x) dx = c + v(x_0) = c$ (since v is continuous, $v(x_0) = 0$ so $c = u(x_0)$).

(ii) follows from the first part of the proof of part (i). \square

Remark (R.15) Functions $u: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of the form

$u(x) = u(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x f(t) dt$ for some $f \in L^1([a, b])$ are called **absolutely continuous**. (An equivalent characterization is that $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. for all disjoint $(x_k, y_k) \subset [a, b]$ with $\sum (y_k - x_k) < \delta$, one has $\sum |u(y_k) - u(x_k)| < \varepsilon$.) Such functions are differentiable a.e., and their pointwise derivative equals f a.e.

We aim to show that two natural definitions of differentiability agree.

Theorem (T.19) Let $1 < p \leq \infty$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$.

(ii) $\exists C > 0$ s.t. $\| \tau_h u - u \|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} \leq C|h|$, where

$$(\tau_h u)(x) = u(x+h).$$

(iii) If $p < \infty$: there exists a sequence $\{u_k\} \subset C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.

$u_k \rightarrow u$ in $L^p(\mathbb{R})$, and u_k' converges in $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ to some limit $v \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$ which is in fact the weak derivative of u .

The construction of the approximating sequence $\{u_k\}$ in (iii) will use

the technique of **mollification**: let $\rho \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\int \rho dx = 1$,
 set $\rho_k(x) = k \rho(kx)$ (so $\int \rho_k dx = 1 \forall k$), and set

$$(\rho_k * u)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_k(y) u(x-y) dy, \quad u \in L^p(\mathbb{R}).$$

Lemma (L.10) Let $1 \leq p < \infty$. For $u \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$\rho_k * u \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \cap L^p(\mathbb{R}) \text{ and } \rho_k * u \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} u \text{ in } L^p(\mathbb{R}).$$

Moreover, $\rho_k * u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ if $\text{supp } u$ is compact.

Proof. Since $(\rho_k * u)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(y) \rho_k(x-y) dy$, we get
 $\rho_k * u \in C^\infty$ by differentiation under the integral sign.

• Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Choose a continuous function with compact support

$$v \in C_c^0(\mathbb{R}) \text{ s.t. } \|u-v\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} < \varepsilon. \text{ Then}$$

$$u - \rho_k * u = (u-v) + (v - \rho_k * v) + \rho_k * (v-u). \quad \otimes$$

* Now, for $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ and $g \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f * g\|_{L^p} &= \left\| \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(y) g(x-y) dy \right\|_{L^p} \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(y)| \underbrace{\|g(\cdot - y)\|_{L^p}}_{= \|g\|_{L^p}} dy \\ &= \|f\|_{L^1} \|g\|_{L^p}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \|\rho_k * (v-u)\|_{L^p} \leq \|\rho_k\|_{L^1} \|v-u\|_{L^p} = \|\rho\|_{L^1} \|v-u\|_{L^p} = C\varepsilon.$$

* Finally, since v is uniformly continuous, $\exists k_0$ s.t. $|v(x) - v(y)| < \varepsilon$
 $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, |x-y| < \frac{1}{k_0}$. For $k \geq k_0$, this gives

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow |v(x) - (\rho_k * v)(x)| &= \left| \int \rho_k(z) v(x) - \rho_k(z) v(x-z) dz \right| \\ &\leq \int |\rho_k(z)| |v(x) - v(x-z)| dz \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq \left(\int |g(z)| dz \right) \tilde{\varepsilon} \\ = C \tilde{\varepsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|v - g_k * u\|_{L^p} \leq C \tilde{\varepsilon} \cdot \mathcal{L}(\text{supp } v)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \text{ Take } \tilde{\varepsilon} = \frac{\varepsilon}{1 + \mathcal{L}(\text{supp } v)^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

* All three terms in $\textcircled{*}$ are $\leq C' \varepsilon$ for all sufficiently large k , where C' only depends on g . Since $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, we are done. \square

Corollary (C.3) Let $1 \leq p < \infty$. Let $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$. Then $\exists u_k \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t. $u_k \rightarrow u$ in $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$.

Proof Step 1: $v_k := g_k * u \rightarrow u$ in $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$.

Well, Lemma (L.10) gives $v_k \rightarrow u$ in $L^p(\mathbb{R})$. It suffices to show that v_k has a weak derivative in $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ and $v_k' = g_k * u'$. (Then $u' \in L^p$ implies $v_k' \rightarrow u'$ in L^p)

To this end, let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_k \varphi' dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} (g_k * u) \varphi' dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} g_k(x-y) u(y) \varphi'(x) dx dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(y) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} g_k(x-y) \varphi'(x) dx \right) dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(y) \frac{d}{dy} \left(\underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}} g_k(x-y) \varphi(x) dx}_{\in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})} \right) dy \\ &= - \iint u'(y) g_k(x-y) \varphi(x) dx dy \\ &= - \int (g_k * u') \varphi dx. \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Given $u \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $\exists v \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$
 s.t. $\|u-v\|_{W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})} < \varepsilon$.

Well, let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty((-2,2))$, $\varphi = 1$ on $[-1,1]$. Set $\varphi_k(x) = \varphi(\frac{x}{k})$.

We claim that $\varphi_k u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow u$ in $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \quad \|\varphi_k u - u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} &= \int_{\{|x|>k\}} |(\varphi_k(x)-1)u(x)|^p dx \\ &\leq C \int_{\{|x|>k\}} |u(x)|^p dx \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \quad (\varphi_k u)' &= \varphi_k u' + \varphi_k' u, \text{ and } \varphi_k u' \longrightarrow u' \text{ in } L^p, \\ &\text{while } \varphi_k' u \longrightarrow 0 \text{ in } L^p \text{ since} \\ &|\varphi_k' u| \begin{cases} = 0, & |x| \leq k \\ \leq C|u(x)|, & |x| > k. \end{cases} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

This proves that $(i) \Rightarrow (iii)$ in Thm (T.19) for $1 \leq p < \infty$.

Proof of Thm (T.19)

$(iii) \xRightarrow{1 \leq p < \infty} (i)$: The assumptions give $\forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$

$$-\int u_k \varphi' dx \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \int v \varphi dx$$

\downarrow

$$-\int u \varphi' dx = \int u' \varphi dx,$$

so $v = u'$; and so $u_k \longrightarrow u$, $u_k' \longrightarrow u'$ in $L^p(\mathbb{R})$.

Since $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$ is complete, this gives $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$.

$(i) \xRightarrow{1 \leq p < \infty} (ii)$: If $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$, then $T_h u(x) - u(x) = \int_0^h u'(x+t) dt$,
 and therefore, for $p < \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|T_h u - u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})}^p &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left| \int_0^h u'(x+t) dt \right|^p dx \\
&\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\int_0^h |u'(x+t)|^p dt \right) \left(\int_0^h 1 dt \right)^{p-1} dx \\
&= h^{p-1} \int_0^h \int_{\mathbb{R}} |u'(x+t)|^p dx dt \\
&= h^p \|u'\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})}^p.
\end{aligned}$$

For $p=\infty$, $\|T_h u - u\|_{L^\infty} \leq \int_0^h |u'(x+t)| dt \leq h \|u'\|_{L^\infty}$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i): Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Then for $f(h) := h^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u(x+h) - u(x)) \varphi(x) dx$,

• $|f(h)| \leq h^{-1} \|T_h u - u\|_{L^p} \|\varphi\|_{L^q} \leq C \|\varphi\|_{L^q} \quad (q = \frac{p}{p-1});$

• $f(h) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(y) (\varphi(y-h) - \varphi(y)) dy \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u(y) \varphi'(y) dy.$

Therefore, $|\int u \varphi' dx| \leq C \|\varphi\|_{L^q} \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}).$

Thus, $\varphi \mapsto -\int u \varphi' dx$ extends to a continuous linear functional on $L^q \Rightarrow \exists v \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.

$$-\int u \varphi' dx = \int v \varphi dx \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$$

$$\Rightarrow u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}) \text{ with } u' = v. \quad \square$$

Remark (R.16) (i) Theorem (T.19) says for $p=\infty$ that

$$\begin{aligned}
W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}) &= \text{Lip}(\mathbb{R}) \equiv C^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}) := \left\{ u: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : \|u\|_\infty = \sup |u| < \infty, \right. \\
&\quad \left. [u]_{C^{0,1}} = \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{|x - y|} < \infty \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) If $p=\infty$ and $u_k \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ is a Cauchy sequence in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$, then $u = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u_k \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ lies in $C^1(\mathbb{R}) = \{u: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} :$

$\|u\|_\infty < \infty, \|u'\|_\infty < \infty, u' \text{ continuous}\}$. Thus, $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \subset W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ is not dense (just like it is not dense in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ either).

(iii) $u(x) = 1_{[0,1]}(x)$ satisfies condition (ii) in Thm. (T.19), but $u \notin W^{1,1}(\mathbb{R})$ (since the distributional derivative of u is $\delta(x) - \delta(x-1) \notin L^1(\mathbb{R})$).

The next characterization is the basis upon which one can conveniently define Sobolev spaces with general orders $s \in \mathbb{R}$; we will see applications of this later in the discussion of trace theorems.

Theorem (T.20) Let $k \in \mathbb{N}_0, u \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Then $u \in H^k(\mathbb{R})$ if and only if $\int_{\mathbb{R}} (1+|\xi|)^{2k} |\hat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \infty$, where $\hat{u}(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-ix\xi} u(x) dx$ is the Fourier transform of u . Moreover, the norms $\|u\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R})}$ and $\|(1+|\cdot|)^k \hat{u}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}$ are equivalent.

Remark (R.17) (i) \hat{u} is defined as a tempered distribution ($\hat{u} \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$) if u is itself a tempered distribution. Thus, $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ lies in $H^k(\mathbb{R})$ if $\hat{u} \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ is in fact in $L^2_{loc}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\int (1+|\xi|)^{2k} |\hat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \infty$.

(ii) One can then define, for $s \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$H^s(\mathbb{R}) = \{u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}) : \hat{u} \in L^2_{loc}(\mathbb{R}), \int (1+|\xi|)^{2s} |\hat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \infty\}.$$

For $s \geq 0$, one can replace $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ by $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. For $s \in \mathbb{R}$, this is the completion of $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ w.r.t. $\|u\|_{H^s} := \|(1+|\cdot|)^s \hat{u}\|_{L^2}$.

Proof of Theorem (T.20). Set $\tilde{H}^k(\mathbb{R}) := \{u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : (1+|\cdot|)^k \hat{u} \in L^2\}$

with norm $\|u\|_{\tilde{H}^k} := \|(1+|\cdot|)^k \hat{u}\|_{L^2}$. We want to show that

$$\tilde{H}^k(\mathbb{R}) = H^k(\mathbb{R}).$$

(i) If $u \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ (Schwartz space: $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} (1+|x|)^j |\frac{d^k}{dx^k} u(x)| < \infty \forall j, k$),

then $\widehat{u'}(\xi) = i\xi \widehat{u}(\xi)$, so since $(1+|\xi|)^{2k} \leq C \sum_{j=0}^k |\xi|^{2j}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{\tilde{H}^k}^2 &\leq C \int \sum_{j=0}^k |\xi|^j |\widehat{u}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \\ &= C \sum_{j=0}^k \|\widehat{u^{(j)}}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= C \sum_{j=0}^k \|u^{(j)}\|_{L^2}^2 \quad \left(\text{since } u \mapsto \widehat{u} \text{ is an isometric isomorphism } L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}) \right) \\ &= C \|u\|_{H^k}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sum_{j=0}^k |\xi|^{2j} \leq C (1+|\xi|)^{2k}$, we similarly have $\|u\|_{H^k}^2 \leq C \|u\|_{\tilde{H}^k}^2$.

So on $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, $\|\cdot\|_{H^k}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\tilde{H}^k}$ are equivalent norms

(ii) Now, $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) \subset H^k(\mathbb{R})$ is dense by Theorem (T.19)(iii).

Likewise, $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) \subset \tilde{H}^k(\mathbb{R})$ is dense since

$$\{\widehat{u} : u \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})\} = \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) \subset \{v \in L^2_{loc}(\mathbb{R}) : (1+|\cdot|)^k v \in L^2(\mathbb{R})\}$$

is dense; and $\tilde{H}^k(\mathbb{R})$ is complete.

$\Rightarrow H^k(\mathbb{R}), \tilde{H}^k(\mathbb{R})$ are the completions of $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ w.r.t.

equivalent norms, and therefore they are equal. \square

We next generalize Theorem (T.19) to Sobolev spaces on $I = (a, b)$, $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$. The strategy is to extend elements of $W^{1,p}(I)$ to all of \mathbb{R} in a controlled manner and thereby reduce to the case $I = \mathbb{R}$ we have already treated.

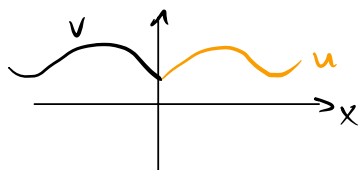
Proposition (P.6). Let $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, $I = (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then there exists a continuous linear extension operator $E: W^{1,p}(I) \rightarrow W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$:

- (i) $(Eu)_I = u$;
- (ii) $\|Eu\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} \leq C \|u\|_{L^p(I)}$;
- (iii) $\|Eu\|_{W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})} \leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)}$.

Proof If $I = \mathbb{R}$: nothing to do. **Case 1:** I half-infinite. **Case 2:** I bounded.

Case 1. $I = \mathbb{R}_+ = (0, \infty)$. For $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}_+)$, set

$$v(x) = \begin{cases} u(x), & x > 0 \\ u(-x), & x \leq 0 \end{cases}, \quad w(x) = \begin{cases} u'(x), & x > 0 \\ -u'(-x), & x < 0. \end{cases}$$



(v is continuous at $x=0$.) Then

$$\|v\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} \leq C \|u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}_+)},$$

$$\|w\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} \leq C \|u'\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}_+)}.$$

We claim that w is the weak derivative of v . Indeed, by Theorem (T.18),

$$v(x) = \begin{cases} x > 0: & u(x) = u(0) + \int_0^x u'(t) dt = v(0) + \int_0^x w(t) dt \\ x < 0: & u(-x) = u(0) + \int_0^{-x} u'(t) dt = u(0) + \int_0^x -u'(-t) dt \\ & = v(0) + \int_0^x w(t) dt. \end{cases}$$

So $v' = w$. (See also the proof of Theorem (T.18) (i).)

We may thus set $Eu := v$.

Case 2: bounded I , without loss of generality $I = (0,1)$.

Fix $\chi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\chi = 1$ on $(-\infty, \frac{1}{3}]$,
 $\chi = 0$ on $[\frac{2}{3}, \infty)$.

Given $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$, $u_L := \chi u \in L^p(I)$

$$u_R := (1-\chi)u \in L^p(I).$$

• Claim: $u_L \in W^{1,p}(I)$ and $u'_L = \chi u' + \chi' u$

Indeed, for $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_I u_L \varphi' + (\chi u' + \chi' u) \varphi \, dx \\ = \int_I u \chi \varphi' + u' \chi \varphi + u \chi' \varphi \, dx \\ = \int_I u (\chi \varphi)' + u' \chi \varphi \, dx = 0 \quad \text{since } \chi \varphi \in C_c^\infty(I). \end{aligned}$$

• Thus, $u_L \in W^{1,p}((0,\infty))$ (via extension by 0 on $(1,\infty)$),

and Case 1 produces $v_L \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$ with

$$\|v_L\|_{L^p} \leq C \|u_L\|_{L^p} \leq C' \|u\|_{L^p},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|v'_L\|_{L^p} &\leq \|\chi u'\|_{L^p} + \|\chi' u\|_{L^p} \leq C(\|u'\|_{L^p} + \|u\|_{L^p}) \\ &= C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)}. \end{aligned}$$

• Arguing similarly for u_R gives $v_R \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$, $v_R|_{(-\infty,1)} = u_R$.

• Set $E(u) = v_L + v_R$. □

Corollary (C.4) If $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$, $\exists \{u_k\} \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.
 $u_k|_I \rightarrow u$ in $W^{1,p}(I)$.

Proof Apply Corollary (C.3) to $Eu \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$. \square

We can now generalize Theorem (T.19) as follows:

Theorem (T.19') Let $1 < p \leq \infty$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$.

(ii) $\exists C > 0$ s.t. $\forall I' \in I$, $0 < h < \text{dist}(I', \partial I)$,

$$\|T_h u - u\|_{L^p(I')} \leq C|h|.$$

(iii) If $p < \infty$: there exists a sequence $\{u_k\} \subset C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.

$u_k|_I \rightarrow u$ in $L^p(I)$, and $u_k'|_I$ converges in $L^p(I)$ to some limit $v \in L^p(I)$ which is in fact the weak derivative of u .

Proof Exercise. \square

Theorem (T.21) (Sobolev embedding.)

Let $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. Set $\alpha = 1 - \frac{1}{p}$. Then $W^{1,p}(I) \subset C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{I})$, where

$$C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{I}) = \left\{ u \in C^0(\bar{I}) : [u]_{C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{I})} = \sup_{\substack{x,y \in \bar{I} \\ x \neq y}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{|x - y|^\alpha} < \infty \right\}.$$

In particular, $W^{1,p}(I) \subset L^\infty(I)$.

Proof For $x, y \in I$ we have

$$u(x) = u(y) + \int_y^x u'(t) dt. \quad \otimes$$

- Fix $I' \subseteq I$ with $|I'| \leq 1$ and average \otimes over $y \in I'$;
then for $x \in I'$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |u(x)| &\leq \frac{1}{|I'|} \int_{I'} |u(y)| dy + \frac{1}{|I'|} \int_{I'} \int_x^y |u'(t)| dt dy \\
 &\leq \|u\|_{L^1(I')} + \|u'\|_{L^1(I')} \\
 &\leq C (\|u\|_{L^p(I')} + \|u'\|_{L^p(I')}) \\
 &\leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)}, \text{ where } C \text{ is independent of } x.
 \end{aligned}$$

- To control $[u]_{C^{0,\alpha}(I)}$, we estimate for $x, y \in I$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |u(x) - u(y)| &\leq \int_x^y |u'(t)| dt \\
 &\leq \begin{cases} p=1: & \leq \|u'\|_{L^1(I)} \leq \|u\|_{W^{1,1}(I)} \\ p=\infty: & \leq |y-x| \|u'\|_{L^\infty(I)} \leq |y-x| \|u\|_{W^{1,\infty}(I)} \\ 1 < p < \infty: & \leq \left(\int_x^y |u'(t)|^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_x^y 1^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \quad (q = \frac{p}{p-1}) \\ & \leq \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} \underbrace{|y-x|^{\frac{p-1}{p}}}_{=|y-x|^\alpha} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary (C.5) If $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ is unbounded, $1 \leq p < \infty$,

and $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$, then $|u(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, $x \in I$.

Proof Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Pick $v \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t. $\|u - v\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} < \varepsilon$.

$$|u(x)| \leq |v(x)| + \|u - v\|_{L^\infty}$$

$$\leq 0 + C\varepsilon$$

for all sufficiently large $x \in I$. □

Corollary (C.6) (Product rule.) Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, $u, v \in W^{1,p}(I)$.

Then $uv \in W^{1,p}(I)$, $(uv)' = u'v + uv'$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \|uv\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} &\leq C(\|u\|_{L^\infty(I)} \|v\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} + \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} \|v\|_{L^\infty(I)}) \\ &\leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} \|v\|_{W^{1,p}(I)}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof $uv \in L^p(I)$ since $u, v \in L^\infty(I)$ by Theorem (T.2i).

Once we show that $u'v + uv'$ is a weak derivative of uv , the estimate follows.

Case 1: $p < \infty$. Pick $u_k, v_k \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ s.t. $u_k|_I \rightarrow u$ and $v_k|_I \rightarrow v$ in $W^{1,p}(I)$ (and thus also in $L^\infty(I)$). Then

$$\begin{aligned} u_k v_k &\longrightarrow uv \text{ in } L^p(I), \\ (u_k v_k)' &= u'_k v_k + u_k v'_k \longrightarrow u'v + uv' \text{ in } L^p(I). \end{aligned}$$

Since $W^{1,p}(I)$ is complete, we are done.

Case 2: $p = \infty$. Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(I)$, then for $\text{supp } \varphi \subset I' \Subset I$,

$$-\int_I uv \varphi' dx = -\int_{I'} uv \varphi' dx$$

$$u|_{I'}, v|_{I'} \in W^{1,1}(I') \xrightarrow{\quad} \int_{I'} (u'v + uv') \varphi dx.$$

$\Rightarrow uv$ has weak derivative $u'v + uv' \in L^\infty(I)$. \square