

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

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

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

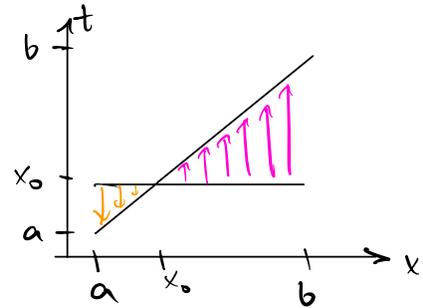
$$- \int_{x_0}^b \int_{x_0}^x u'(t) \varphi'(x) dt dx$$

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

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

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

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



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

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

Lemma (L.9)<sup>a</sup>  
 $\Rightarrow f \equiv c$  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  $x_0$  to be a Lebesgue point of  $u = u(x) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} u(t) dt$ .  
 This implies that in  $u(x) = c + v(x)$  we can average over  $x \in (x_0, x_0+\delta)$  to get  
 $u(x) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} u(t) dt = c + \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+\delta} v(t) dt = c + v(x_0) = c$  (since  $v$  is continuous at  $x_0$ )  
 $\Rightarrow c = u(x_0)$ .

(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

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

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

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

\* All three terms in  $\otimes$  are  $\leq C' \varepsilon$  for all sufficiently large  $k$ , where  $C'$  only depends on  $p$ . 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:  $v_k := \rho_k * u \rightarrow u$  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  $v_k' = \rho_k * u'$ . (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

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

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  $\varphi_k u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow u$  in  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$

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

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

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  $u_k \rightarrow u$ ,  $u_k' \rightarrow u'$  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  $f(h) := h^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u(x+h) - u(x)) \varphi(x) dx$ ,

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

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

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

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

(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)  $u(x) = \mathbb{1}_{[0,1]}(x)$  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  $\hat{u}(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-i x \xi} u(x) dx$  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:  $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} (1+|x|)^j \left| \frac{d^k}{dx^k} u(x) \right| < \infty \forall j, k$ ),

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

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

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

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

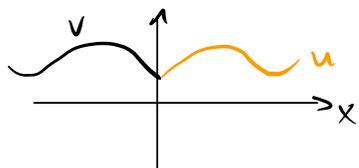
Proposition (P.6). Let  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ,  $I = (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Then there exists a continuous linear extension operator  $E: W^{1,p}(I) \rightarrow W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R})$ :

- (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  $u \in W^{1,p}(I)$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $\exists \{u_k\} \in C_c^\infty(I)$  s.t.  
 $u_k|_I \rightarrow u$  in  $W^{1,p}(I)$ .

Proof Apply Corollary (C.3) to  $\epsilon u \in W^{1,p}(I)$ . □

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  $\{u_k\} \subset C_c^\infty(I)$  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.

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  $\bar{\cdot}$  over  $y \in I'$ ;  
then for  $x \in I'$

$$|u(x)| \leq \frac{1}{|I'|} \int_{I'} |u(y)| dy + \frac{1}{|I'|} \int_{I'} \int_x^y |u'(t)| dt dy$$

$$\leq \|u\|_{L^1(I')} + \|u'\|_{L^1(I')}$$

$$\leq C (\|u\|_{L^p(I')} + \|u'\|_{L^p(I')})$$

$$\leq C \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(I)}, \text{ where } C \text{ is independent of } x.$$

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

$$|u(x) - u(y)| \leq \int_x^y |u'(t)| dt$$

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

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.  $\|u - v\|_{W^{1,p}(I)} < \varepsilon$ .

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

$$\leq 0 + C\varepsilon$$

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

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

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  $\text{supp } \varphi \subset I' \Subset I$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -\int_I uv \varphi' dx &= -\int_{I'} uv \varphi' dx \\ &\stackrel{=}{=} \int_{I'} (u'v + uv') \varphi dx. \end{aligned}$$

$u|_{I'}, v|_{I'} \in W^{1,1}(I')$

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