

## 2. Variational Methods

2.1 Euler-Lagrange Equations

2.2. An application to  $\epsilon$ -value problems and best constant in Poincaré inequality

2.3. Sufficient conditions for existence of minimizers: coercivity and convexity.

2.4 Another application to  $\epsilon$ -value problems - Pólya generalized compactness

2.5. Nonlinear  $\epsilon$ -value problems, best constant in Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, concentration compactness.

2.7. Lyapunov functionals and orbital stability

## 2.1. Euler-Lagrange Equations.

$X$  Banach space over reals,  $U \subseteq X$  open

$$F: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Theorem ( $\varepsilon$ - $L$  without constraints)

If  $u \in U$  is a local minimum or maximum for  $F$  and the Gâteaux derivative of  $F$  at  $u$  in the direction  $v \in X$  exists then

$$dF(u)[v] = 0$$

Proof: Assume  $u \in U$  is a local minimum

$\Rightarrow \exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that

$$F(u + \varepsilon v) \geq F(u) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, |\varepsilon| < \varepsilon_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} dF(u)v = \lim_{\substack{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0 \\ \varepsilon > 0}} \frac{F(u + \varepsilon v) - F(u)}{\varepsilon} \geq 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} dF(u)v = \lim_{\substack{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0 \\ \varepsilon < 0}} \frac{F(u + \varepsilon v) - F(u)}{\varepsilon} \leq 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow dF(u)[v] = 0$$

Q.E.D.

Theorem (Lagrange Multiplier) Assume that

1°  $G: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $C^1$ ;

2°  $\mathcal{A} = \{u \in U \mid G(u) = 0\} \neq \emptyset$ ;

3°  $u \in \mathcal{A}$  is a local minimizer for  $F|_{\mathcal{A}}$ ;

4°  $DG(u) \neq 0$ ;

5°  $F$  is Fréchet differentiable at  $u$ .

Then  $\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$dF(u)[v] = \lambda DG(u)[v] \text{ for all } v \in X$$

Proof Let  $w \in X$  such that  $DG(u)[w] \neq 0$

Define  $j: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad v \in X$

$$j_v(\sigma, \theta) = G(u + \sigma v + \theta w)$$

Then  $j_v(0,0) = G(u) = 0$  since  $u \in \mathcal{A}$

$$\frac{\partial j_v}{\partial \theta}(0,0) = DG(u)[w] \neq 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  by implicit function theorem  $\exists \delta > 0$  and

$\theta : (-\delta, \delta) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a  $C^1$  function such that

$$j'_v(\bar{c}, \theta(\bar{c})) = 0 \quad \forall \bar{c} \in (-\delta, \delta) \quad \text{hence}$$

$$U + \bar{c}V + \theta(\bar{c})W \in \mathcal{A} \quad \forall \bar{c} \in (-\delta, \delta)$$

Define  $i : (-\delta, \delta) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by.

$$i(\bar{c}) = F(U + \bar{c}V + \theta(\bar{c})W)$$

Then 0 is a local minimizer for  $i$ . Since  $i$  is differentiable at 0 we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{di}{d\bar{c}}(0) = DF(U) [V + \theta'(0)W] \\ &= DF(U) [V] + \theta'(0) DF(U) [W] \end{aligned}$$

But from the implicit function theorem

$$\theta'(0) = - \frac{DG(U)[V]}{DG(U)[W]}$$

Hence

$$DF(U)[V] = \frac{DF(U)[W]}{DG(U)[W]} DG(U)[V] \quad \text{for any } V.$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Q.E.D

## 2.2. An application to $\epsilon$ -value problems and the best Poincaré constant

Consider  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$  a bounded domain and

$$I: H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$I[u] = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x)|^2 dx$$

Theorem If  $u_0$  is a local minimizer of  $I[u]$  subject to  $\|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 1$  then  $u_0$  is a weak solution of:

$$-\Delta u_0 = \lambda u_0 \quad \text{for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Proof Use Lagrange multiplier theorem:

$$dI(u_0)v = \lambda DG(u_0)v \quad \forall v \in H_0^1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_0 \cdot \nabla v dx = \lambda \int_{\Omega} u_0 \cdot v dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1$$

but this is the def of weak sol's of  $-\Delta u_0 = \lambda u_0$

Theorem The problem:

$$\inf_{\substack{U \in H_0^1 \\ \|U\|_2 = 1}} I[U] = \lambda$$

Verifies:

- (i) It has a minimizer  $U_0$ , unique modulo multiplication by  $e^{i\theta}$   $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$ .
- (ii)  $\lambda$  is the lowest  $e$ -value of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega$  with zero bdy condition.  $U_0$  is the corresponding  $e$ -vector
- (iii)  $U_0 \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$
- (iv)  $\lambda$  is a simple  $e$ -value and  $U_0$  can be chosen strictly positive.

Proof (i) Clearly  $0 \leq \lambda < \infty$ . Let  $\{U_k\} \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  be a minimizing sequence

$$\Rightarrow I[U_k] \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\Omega} |\nabla U_k|^2 dx \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda.$$

$$\Rightarrow \|\nabla U_k\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\lambda} + 1 \text{ for } k \text{ suff large}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|U_k\|_{H_0^1} = \|U_k\|_2 + \|\nabla U_k\|_2 = 1 + \|\nabla U_k\|_2 \leq 2 + \sqrt{\lambda}$$

$\Rightarrow \{u_k\}$  bounded in  $H_0^1$   $\left\{ \exists \{u_{k_j}\} \subseteq \{u_k\} \right.$   
 $H_0^1(\Omega)$  reflexive Banach space

$$u_{k_j} \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \infty} u_0 \text{ in } H_0^1(\Omega)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_{k_j} \cdot \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} u_{k_j} v \, dx \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_0 \cdot \nabla v \, dx + \int_{\Omega} u_0 v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 u_{k_j} \rightarrow u_0 \text{ in } H_0^1(\Omega) \\
 H_0^1 \hookrightarrow L^2 \\
 \text{compact}
 \end{array}
 \left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 \Rightarrow u_{k_j} \rightarrow u_0 \text{ in } L^2 \\
 \Rightarrow \|u_0\|_{L^2} = 1
 \end{array} \right.$$

(Rellich compactness theorem, relies on  $\Omega$  bounded)

and from above we get:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla u_{k_j} \cdot \nabla v \, dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_0 \cdot \nabla v \, dx$$

Now:

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_0|^2 dx \leq \liminf \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_{k_j}|^2 dx = \lambda$$

Indeed by Cauchy-Schwarz

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} \nabla v_{k_j} \cdot \nabla v_0 dx \right) \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_{k_j}|^2 dx \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_0|^2 dx$$

Apply lim inf, note that LHS is convergent:

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_0|^2 dx \right)^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_0|^2 dx \cdot \liminf \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_{k_j}|^2 dx$$

$$\text{So } I[v_0] \leq \lambda, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow \lambda = I[v_0] \end{array} \right.$$

$$\|v_0\|_{L^2} = 1 \Rightarrow \lambda \leq I[v_0]$$

$\uparrow$   
infimum

$\Rightarrow v_0$  is a minimizer. Part (i) is done

(ii) The fact that  $\lambda$  is an  $e$ -value with corresponding  $e$ -vector  $v_0$  follows from previous theorem.

If  $\lambda_1$  is another  $e$ -value with corresponding  $e$ -vector  $v_1$ , normalized to  $\|v_1\|_{L^2} = 1$ , we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla v_1 \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} v_1 \cdot v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \nabla v_1 \cdot \nabla v_1 \, dx = \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} v_1 \cdot v_1 \, dx \quad (\text{make } v = v_1 \text{ above})$$

$$\|v_1\|_{L^2}^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda \leq \lambda_1.$$

(iii) Standard regularity theory for elliptic  $e$ -value problems:

For example to obtain  $v_0 \in C^2(\Omega)$  consider  $\Omega_1 \subset \subset \Omega$ , i.e.  $\Omega_1$  open and  $\overline{\Omega_1} \subset \text{Interior of } \Omega$ .

Let  $\chi_1$  be a  $C^\infty$  version of the characteristic function of  $\Omega_1$ , i.e.  $\chi_1 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$

$$\chi_1(x) = 1 \text{ for } x \in \Omega_1; \text{ supp } \chi_1 \subset \Omega.$$

Then  $x_1 v_0$  satisfies in the weak sense

$$-\Delta(x_1 v_0) = \lambda(x_1 v_0) + \nabla(\nabla \lambda \cdot v_0)$$

on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Using Fourier Transform

$$|\xi|^2 \widehat{x_1 v_0}(\xi) = \lambda \widehat{x_1 v_0}(\xi) + \underbrace{\dots}_{\in L^2_\xi(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 + |\xi|^2) \widehat{x_1 v_0}(\xi) = \underbrace{(\lambda + 1) \widehat{x_1 v_0}(\xi) + \dots}_{\in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 + |\xi|^2) \widehat{x_1 v_0}(\xi) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 v_0 \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \nabla \lambda \cdot x_1 v_0 \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ and } x_1^2 v_0 \in H^2$$

$$\Rightarrow -\Delta(x_1^2 v_0) = \lambda(x_1^2 v_0) + \underbrace{\nabla(2 \nabla \lambda \cdot x_1 v_0)}_{\in H^1}$$

Repeat the argument above  $\Rightarrow x_1^2 v_0 \in H^3(\mathbb{R}^n)$   
Inductively  $x_1^{m-1} v_0 \in H^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$

by choosing  $n$  large enough so that

$$(n-2) \cdot 2 > n \text{ we get.}$$

$$x_1^{n-1} u_0 \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

$$\Rightarrow u_0 \in C^2(\Omega_1).$$

Since  $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega$  collectively we get  
 $u_0 \in C^2(\Omega).$

(iv) Since  $|\nabla |u|| \leq |\nabla u| \quad \forall u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$   
we deduce that

$\tilde{u}_0 = |u_0| \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  is also a minimiser

Obviously  $\tilde{u}_0 \geq 0$  a.e.  $\int_{\Omega} \tilde{u}_0 \geq 0$   
By (iii)  $\tilde{u}_0 \in C^2(\Omega)$  on  $\Omega$ .

If  $x_0 \in \Omega$  is such that  $\tilde{u}_0(x_0) = 0$  then  
 $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}(x_0, \varepsilon) \subset \Omega$  is a minimum for  $\tilde{u}_0$  in  
contradiction to the strong maximum principle  
for  $-\tilde{u}_0$  on  $\mathcal{B}(x_0, \varepsilon)$ .  $\Rightarrow \tilde{u}_0 > 0$  on  $\Omega$ .

Now we know that the minimizer can be chosen such that  $v_0 > 0$  on  $\Omega$ .

Let  $v_1$  be another minimizer  $\Rightarrow v_1$  is another  $e$ -vector for  $\lambda$  (in the weak sense)  $\Rightarrow \operatorname{Re} v_1, \operatorname{Im} v_1$  are  $e$ -vectors. Denote  $v_2 = \operatorname{Re} v_1, v_3 = \operatorname{Im} v_1$ .

Claim  $\exists c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $v_2 = c_1 v_0, v_3 = c_2 v_0$ . Assume not, orthogonalise  $v_2$  and  $v_0$  and normalise  $v_2$  to have  $\|v_2\|_{L^2} = 1$ . Then

$$\int_{\Omega} v_0 v_2 dx = 0 \Rightarrow v_2 \text{ changes sign on } \Omega$$

and since  $v_2$  remains an  $e$ -vector  $\Rightarrow |v_2|$  is a minimizer attaining its maximum on  $\Omega$  in contradiction with the above argument.

In conclusion  $v_1 = (c_1 + ic_2)v_0$  and since  $\int_{\Omega} |v_1|^2 dx = 1 = \int_{\Omega} |v_0|^2 dx \Rightarrow |c_1 + ic_2| = 1$ .

Now if  $v_1$  would be another  $e$ -vector of  $\lambda$  then normalise it such that  $\|v_1\|_{L^2} = 1$  hence  $v_1$  will be a minimizer and consequently

$U_1 = c U_0$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Combining this with results from the theory of compact operators which imply that the invariant subspace of  $-A$  (on a bounded  $\Omega$  with 0 b.c. condition) corresponding to  $\lambda$  is finite dimensional or which  $-A$  is represented by a self adjoint matrix we get that the invariant space for  $\lambda$  is one dimensional.

The theorem is now completely proven.

### Remark

$$\lambda = \inf_{\substack{U \in H_0^1(\Omega) \\ \|U\|_{L^2} = 1}} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla U|^2 dx = \inf_{\substack{U \in H_0^1 \\ U \neq 0}} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla U|^2 dx}{\int_{\Omega} |U|^2 dx}$$

So the lowest  $\lambda$ -value of  $-A$  on  $\Omega$  with zero boundary condition is also the best constant for Poincaré inequality:

$$\|U\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \leq C \|\nabla U\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \quad U \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$