

Define $D_i^h u = \frac{u(x+he_i) - u(x)}{h}$, and let $u \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ be continuous, with $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ solve

$$\int_{\Omega} B^k(u, \nabla u) v^k = \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^m u_{,i}^k v_{,i}^k \quad \forall v \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \cap W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n), \forall i = 1, \dots, n \quad (1)$$

and $B^k = B^k(z, p)$ a quadratic form in p_k and $C^{p,\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and bounded in z (i.e. $B^k = b_{ij}^k(z) p_k^i p_k^j$ so $B^k(u, \nabla u) = b_{ij}^k(u) u_{,k}^i u_{,k}^j$). In particular $B \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$. We will show the following:

Theorem 1. *Let $u \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \cap W^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ a bounded domain solve (1). Then for each $U \subseteq \bar{U} \subseteq \Omega$ it holds that $u \in W^{2,2}(U)$.*

We will proceed in steps.

Define $\eta = \zeta^2$ as a cutoff function for U . Then for small enough $|h| > 0$ it holds that $w = D_i^{-h}(\eta^2 D_i^h u) \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \cap W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$.

Now, we shall investigate certain related linear equations.

Let $x \in \Omega$ with $d(x, \partial\Omega) > 2h$ and define

$$(1-t)(x_1, P_1) + t(x_2, P_2) = (c_1(t), c_2(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

where $x_1 = u(x)$, $x_2 = u(x + he_i)$ $P_1 = \nabla u(x)$, $P_2 = \nabla u(x + he_i)$.

Lemma 2. *It holds that*

$$D_i^h B^k(u, \nabla u)(x) = \sum_{l=1}^n (D_i^h u^l) \int_0^1 b_{ij,l}^k(c_1(t)) c_2^{ki}(t) c_2^{kj}(t) dt + \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (D_i^h u_{,k}^\alpha) \int_0^1 (b_{\alpha j}^k + b_{j\alpha}^k) c_2^{kj}(t) dt$$

under the above hypotheses

Proof. By the fundamental theorem of calculus

$$B^k(x_2, P_2) - B^k(x_1, P_1) = \int_0^1 \frac{d}{dt} B^k((1-t)(x_1, P_1) + t(x_2, P_2)) dt$$

Now, it holds that as $B \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$ by the chain rule

$$\frac{d}{dt} B^k((1-t)(x_1, P_1) + t(x_2, P_2)) = \sum_{l=1}^n B_{x_l}^k(c(t)) c_{1,t}^{kl}(t) + \sum_{\alpha} B_{p_k^\alpha}^k(c(t)) c_2^{kj}(t)$$

On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} B_{x_l}^k(c(t)) &= b_{ij,l}^k(c_1(t)) c_2^{ki}(t) c_2^{kj}(t) \\ B_{p_k^\alpha}^k(c(t)) &= (b_{\alpha j}^k + b_{j\alpha}^k) c_2^{kj}(t) \end{aligned}$$

Substitute this and we are done. □

Now, we define $a_l^k = \eta^2 \int_0^1 b_{ij,l}^k(c_1(t)) c_2^{ki}(t) c_2^{kj}(t) dt$ and $c_\alpha^k = \eta^2 \int_0^1 (b_{\alpha j}^k + b_{j\alpha}^k) c_2^{kj}(t) dt$

Lemma 3. *With everything as above $D_i^h u$ solves the linear system*

$$\int_{\Omega} a_l^k u^l u^k + c_{\alpha}^k u_{,k}^{\alpha} u^k = \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^m u_{,j}^k u_{,j}^k$$

Proof. Substitute $v = w$ into equation (1) □

Now, we have that it holds that

$$\sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k| \leq \sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k(0)| + \sup_{k,i,j,l} \|b_{ij,l}^k\|_{C^{1,\gamma}} (\|u\|_{\infty})^{\gamma} = C_1$$

$$\sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k| \leq C_2$$

In particular by substitution:

Lemma 4. *It holds that*

$$\sup_l |a_l^k| \leq C_3 \eta^2 \sum_{i=1}^n u_{,k}^i u_{,k}^i = C_3 \eta^2 |u_{,k}|^2 \leq C_3 \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2$$

and

Lemma 5. *It holds that $\sup_{k,\alpha} |c_{\alpha}^k| \leq C_3 \eta^2 |\nabla u|$*

where $C_3 = C_3(\|u\|_{\infty}, \gamma, \sup_{k,i,j,l} \|b_{ij,l}^k\|_{C^{1,\gamma}}, \sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k(0)|)$. On the other hand this yields

Proposition 6. *It holds that*

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 \leq C_4 \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 dx$$

Proof. It is immediate that

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta^2 \sum_{j=1}^m |D_i^h u_{,j}^k|^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} |a_l^k D_i^h u^l D_i^h u^k| + |c_{\alpha}^k D_i^h u_{,k}^{\alpha} D_i^h u^k|$$

Now,

$$\int_{\Omega} |a_l^k D_i^h u^l D_i^h u^k| \leq \int_{\Omega} C_3 \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 \sum_{l=1}^n |D_i^h u^l D_i^h u^k| \leq \int_{\Omega} C_3 c_1 \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} |c_{\alpha}^k D_i^h u_{,k}^{\alpha} D_i^h u^k| \leq \int_{\Omega} C_3 \eta^2 |\nabla u| |D_i^h u_{,k}^{\alpha}| |D_i^h u^k| \leq \frac{c_{2,\varepsilon}}{n} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u^k|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{n} \int_{\Omega} |D_i^h u_{,k}^{\alpha}|^2$$

and finally

$$|D_i^h u_{,k}^{\alpha}|^2 \leq |D_i^h \nabla u|^2$$

Then adding them we find that

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta^2 \sum_{j=1}^m |D_i^h u_{,j}^k|^2 \leq (1 + \frac{c_{2,\varepsilon}}{n}) \int_{\Omega} C_3 c_1 \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{n} \int_{\Omega} |D_i^h \nabla u|^2$$

In particular by taking $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$ and bringing the second term over to the right side we get

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 \leq 2(1 + \frac{c_{2,\frac{1}{2}}}{n}) \int_{\Omega} C_3 c_1 \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$$

□

We must now estimate $\eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$ through the use of the original system.

Let $B = B_{2R}(y)$ for some $y \in \Omega$ with $d(x, \partial\Omega) > \max\{2h, R\}$ and let $v = \eta^2(u - u_B) |D_i^h u|^2$. We adjust η so it has support contained in $B_{2R}(y)$ and is 1 on B_R and pick R possibly even smaller so that $osc_B(u) \leq \frac{1}{2}$.

Then we get

$$v_{,j} = 2\eta\eta_{,j}(u - u_B) |D_i^h u|^2 + \eta^2 u_{,j} |D_i^h u|^2 + 2\eta^2(u - u_B) D_i^h u \cdot D_i^h u_{,j}$$

Thus we get

Lemma 7. *It holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^m u_{,i}^k v_{,i}^k &= \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^m 2\eta\eta_{,j}(u_{,j}^k(u - u_B)^k) |D_i^h u|^2 + \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^m \eta^2 |u_{,j}^k|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^m 2\eta^2 (u_{,j}^k(u - u_B)^k) D_i^h u \cdot D_i^h u_{,j} \end{aligned}$$

This implies immediately that

Proposition 8. *It holds that*

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 \leq K_1 osc_B(u) \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 + K_2 \int_{\Omega} \eta |\nabla \eta|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$$

where $K_1 = K_1(m, n, \sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k|)$ and $K_2 = K_2(R, n, \|u\|_{\infty})$

Proof. We have that

$$|\int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^m u_{,i}^k v_{,i}^k| \leq \int_{\Omega} |B^k| \eta^2 |u - u_B| |D_i^h u|^2 \leq mn \sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k| \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \eta^2 |u - u_B| |D_i^h u|^2$$

and we will estimate the three terms in the prior lemma.

First off, since

$$\eta^2 |u - u_B| \leq \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B \sup_{y \in B} |u(y) - u(x)| = osc_B(u) \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |2\eta^2 (u_{,j}^k(u - u_B)^k) D_i^h u \cdot D_i^h u_{,j}| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |u - u_B|^2 |D_i^h u_{,j}|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4n} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 + C_n osc_B(u) \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Now, clearly since

$$|\nabla u| \leq \frac{1}{2}(1 + |\nabla u|^2)$$

it holds

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} 2\eta|\eta_{,j}| |u_{,j}^k(u - u_B)^k| |D_i^h u|^2 &\leq \int_{\Omega} 2\eta|\nabla\eta| |\nabla u| |u - u_B| |D_i^h u|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\|u\|_{\infty}}{C_{R,\eta,n}} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 + \frac{1}{4n} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^m \eta^2 |u_{,j}^k|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 dx \leq \frac{1}{2n} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 + (C_n + mn \sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k|) \text{osc}_B(u) \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 + \frac{\|u\|_{\infty}}{C_{R,\eta,n}} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$$

so in particular

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 |D_i^h u|^2 \leq 2n(C_n + mn \sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k|) \text{osc}_B(u) \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 + \frac{2n\|u\|_{\infty}}{C_{R,\eta,n}} \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |\nabla\eta|^2 |D_i^h u|^2$$

□

We finally may bound the second order difference quotients:

Lemma 9. *It holds that there are constants*

$$A_1 = A_1(m, n, \sup_{k,i,j} |b_{ij}^k|, \sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k|, \gamma, \sup_{k,i,j,l} \|b_{ij,l}^k\|_{C^{1,\gamma}}, \sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k(0)|, \|u\|_{\infty})$$

and

$$A_2 = A_2(m, n, \gamma, \sup_{k,i,j,l} \|b_{ij,l}^k\|_{C^{1,\gamma}}, \sup_{k,i,j,l} |b_{ij,l}^k(0)|, \|u\|_{\infty}, R)$$

such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 \leq A_1 \text{osc}_B(u) \int_{\Omega} \eta^2 |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 + A_2 \|\nabla u\|_{2;\Omega}$$

and so let $U \subseteq \bar{U} \subseteq \Omega$ so that \bar{U} is compact. We note that $\bar{\Omega}$ is also compact and so $\text{osc}_B(u)$ depends only on R , not on y . Take $2R < 2h < d(x, \partial\Omega)$ and shrink it so that $A_1 \text{osc}_B(u) < \frac{1}{2}$.

Then it is immediate

Proposition 10. *It holds that for $y \in \bar{U}$ that*

$$\int_{B_R(y)} |D_i^h \nabla u|^2 \leq \frac{1}{(1 - A_1 \text{osc}_B(u))} A_2 \|\nabla u\|_{2;\Omega}$$

so that in particular $u \in W^{2,2}(B_R(y))$ with $\|u\|_{2,2;B_R(y)} \leq (1 + \frac{1}{(1 - A_1 \text{osc}_B(u))} A_2) \|\nabla u\|_{2;\Omega}$

and so

Theorem 11. *It holds that $u \in W^{2,2}(U)$ with $\|u\|_{2,2;U} \leq (1 + \frac{1}{(1 - A_1 \text{osc}_B(u))} A_2) \|\nabla u\|_{2;\Omega}$*