

## First Exam for PDE

April 13, 2025

$\nu$  always stands for the unit outward normal vector on the boundary, and  $U$  is always a bounded  $C^1$  domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## 1. (Sobolev space)

(a) (10 Marks) Suppose  $B_1(0) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , for what values of  $\alpha$  does  $|x|^\alpha \in W^{1,2}(B_1(0))$ ?

(b) (10 Marks) Denote  $\Omega = \{(x, y) : 0 < x < 1, 0 < y < x^2\}$ ,  $p > 6$ . Then for what values of  $\alpha$  does  $v(x, y) = x^\alpha \in W^{1,2}(\Omega) \setminus L^p(\Omega)$ ?

## 2. (Integration by parts)

(a) (10 Marks) Consider

$$\Delta u = f \quad \text{a.e. in } U$$

where  $u \in W^{2,2}(U)$ ,  $f \in L^2(U)$ . Prove that: for any  $V \Subset U$ , we have  $\int_V |\nabla u|^2 dx \leq C \int_U (u^2 + f^2) dx$ , where  $C$  depends only on  $n, \text{dist}(V, \partial U)$ .

Hint: Multiply  $u\xi^2$ .

(b) (10 Marks) Suppose  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $u \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be a positive solution to  $\Delta u + u^\alpha = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Denote  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(B_{2R}(0))$  such that  $\eta = 1$  in  $B_R(0)$ ,  $0 \leq \eta \leq 1$  and  $|\nabla \eta| \leq \frac{C_n}{R}$ . For any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $p > 4$ , prove that

$$\int u^{a+2\alpha} \eta^p dx \leq C_1 \int u^{a-2} |\nabla u|^4 \eta^p dx + \frac{C_2}{R^4} \int u^{a+2} \eta^{p-4} dx$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  depends only on  $n, a, \alpha, p$ .

Hint: Multiply  $u^{a+\alpha} \eta^p$ .

## 3. (Properties of harmonic function)

Suppose  $u \in C^\infty(B_R)$  is a solution to  $\Delta u = 0$  in  $B_R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

(a) (10 Marks) Prove that  $\sup_{B_{\frac{R}{2}}} |Du| \leq \frac{C_n}{R} \sup_{B_R} |u|$ .

(b) (10 Marks) Assume additionally  $u > 0$  in  $B_R$ , prove that  $\sup_{B_{\frac{R}{2}}} |\nabla \log u| \leq \frac{C_n}{R}$ .

(c) (10 Marks) Consider equation

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u(x, y) = xy & \text{in } B_1(0) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial B_1(0) \end{cases}$$

. Compute  $u(0)$ .

## 4. (Strong maximum principle)

(a) (5 Marks) Suppose  $u \in C^2(U) \cap C^1(\bar{U})$  is a solution to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = -2 & \text{in } U \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial U \end{cases}$$



Prove that  $u > 0$  in  $U$  and  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} < 0$  on  $\partial U$ .

(b)(10 Marks) Suppose  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  is a connected domain and  $u \in C^4(\Omega)$  satisfies  $\Delta u = f > 0$  in  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ . If  $f \in C^2(\Omega)$  and  $\frac{1}{f(x)}$  is convex, prove that  $\text{Rank}(D^2u) \equiv \text{Constant}$  in  $\Omega$ .

5. ( $C^0$  estimate)

(a)(10 Marks) Suppose  $u \in C^2(U) \cap C(\bar{U})$  is a solution to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = f \text{ in } U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \\ u = \phi \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

where  $f \in C(\bar{U})$ ,  $\phi \in C(\partial U)$ . Prove that  $\sup_{\bar{U}} |u| \leq \sup_{\partial U} |\phi| + \frac{d^2}{2n} \sup_{\bar{U}} |f|$ , where  $d = \text{diam}(U)$ .

(b)(5 Marks) Suppose  $u \in C^2(U) \cap C^1(\bar{U})$  is a solution to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \text{ in } U \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = -u + \phi \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

where  $\phi \in C(\partial U)$ . Prove  $\sup_{\bar{U}} |u| \leq \sup_{\partial U} |\phi|$ .

(c)(10 Marks) Suppose  $u \in C^2(U) \cap C^1(\bar{U})$  is a solution to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = f \text{ in } U \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = -u + \phi \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

where  $f \in C(\bar{U})$ ,  $\phi \in C(\partial U)$ . Prove  $\sup_{\bar{U}} |u| \leq \sup_{\partial U} |\phi| + \frac{d^2}{2n} \sup_{\bar{U}} |f|$ , where  $d = \text{diam}(U)$ .

6. ( $C^1$  estimate)

**Remark:** Select one question from (b) and (c) to answer!!

Suppose  $u \in C^3(U) \cap C^1(\bar{U})$  is a solution to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = f \text{ in } U \\ u = 0 \text{ on } \partial U \end{cases}$$

where  $f \in C^1(\bar{U})$ .

(a)(10 Marks) Prove that

$$\sup_{\bar{U}} |\nabla u| \leq C(1 + \sup_{\partial U} |\nabla u|),$$

where  $C$  depends only on  $n, |f|_{C^1(\bar{U})}, \text{diam}(U)$ .

**Hint:** Consider  $\varphi = |\nabla u|^2 + \alpha u^2 + \beta |x|^2$ .

(b)(Optional:10 Marks) For any  $V \Subset U$ , prove that

$$\sup_{\bar{V}} |\nabla u| \leq C,$$

where  $C$  depends only on  $n, |f|_{C^1(\bar{U})}, \text{dist}(V, \partial U)$ .

**Hint:** Consider  $\varphi = \xi^2 |\nabla u|^2 + \alpha u^2 + \beta |x|^2$ .

(c)(Optional:10 Marks) Assume additionally that  $U$  satisfies the uniform exterior sphere property. Prove that  $\sup_{\partial U} |\nabla u| \leq C$ , where  $C$  depends only on  $n, |f|_{C^1(\bar{U})}, U$ .

