
Contents

1	Introduction to Sobolev Spaces	1
1.1	Distributions	3
1.2	Sobolev Spaces	8
1.3	Approximation by Smooth Functions	10
1.4	Sobolev Embeddings	22
1.5	Compact Embedding	33
1.6	Other Basic Inequalities	36
1.6.1	Poincaré's Inequality	36
1.6.2	The Classical Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev Inequality	38
2	Existence of Weak Solutions	43
2.1	Second Order Elliptic Operators	44
2.2	Weak Solutions	45
2.3	Methods of Linear Functional Analysis	46
2.3.1	Linear Equations	46
2.3.2	Some Basic Principles in Functional Analysis	47
2.3.3	Existence of Weak Solutions	51
2.4	Variational Methods	53
2.4.1	Semi-linear Equations	53
2.4.2	Calculus of Variations	53
2.4.3	Existence of Minimizers	55
2.4.4	Existence of Minimizers Under Constraints	58
2.4.5	Mini-max Critical Points	62
2.4.6	Existence of a Mini-max via the Mountain Pass Theorem	68
3	Regularity of Solutions	77
3.1	$W^{2,p}$ <i>a priori</i> Estimates	79
3.1.1	Newtonian Potentials	79
3.1.2	Uniform Elliptic Equations	86

3.2	$W^{2,p}$ Regularity of Solutions	91
3.2.1	The Case $p \geq 2$	93
3.2.2	The Case $1 < p < 2$.	98
3.2.3	Other Useful Results Concerning the Existence, Uniqueness, and Regularity	100
3.3	Regularity Lifting	101
3.3.1	Bootstrap	101
3.3.2	Regularity Lifting by Contracting Operators	102
3.3.3	Applications to PDEs	103
3.3.4	Applications to Integral Equations	109
3.3.5	Regularity Lifting by Combinations of Contracting and Shrinking Operators	111
3.3.6	Applications to Integral Equations	115
3.3.7	Applications to Fully Nonlinear Systems of Wolff Type	119
4	Preliminary Analysis on Riemannian Manifolds	123
4.1	Differentiable Manifolds	124
4.2	Tangent Spaces	125
4.3	Riemannian Metrics	128
4.4	Curvature	131
4.4.1	Curvature of Plane Curves	131
4.4.2	Curvature of Surfaces in R^3	132
4.4.3	Curvature on Riemannian Manifolds	133
4.5	Calculus on Manifolds	137
4.5.1	Higher Order Covariant Derivatives and the Laplace-Beltrami Operator	137
4.5.2	Integrals	139
4.5.3	Equations on Prescribing Gaussian and Scalar Curvature	140
4.6	Sobolev Embeddings	141
5	Prescribing Gaussian Curvature on Compact 2-Manifolds	145
5.1	Variational Methods in General	145
5.2	Introduction to Prescribing Gaussian Curvature	148
5.3	The Negative Case	150
5.3.1	Kazdan and Warner's Results—Method of Lower and Upper Solutions	150
5.3.2	The Limiting Situation	156
5.4	The Non-negative Case—Variational Approaches	162
5.4.1	Obstructions	162
5.4.2	The Variational Approach and Key Inequalities	163
5.4.3	Existence of Weak Solutions in Subcritical Case	166
5.4.4	A Remedy for Critical Case—Recovering Coerciveness	167

5.4.5 Existence of Weak Solutions in the Critical Case 171

6 The Yamabe Problem and Prescribing Scalar Curvature on S^n , for $n \geq 3$ 179

6.1 Introduction 179

6.1.1 The Yamabe Problem 179

6.1.2 Prescribing Scalar Curvature on S^n 182

6.2 The Variational Approach for the Yamabe Problem 186

6.3 The Variational Approach for Prescribing Scalar Curvature ... 192

6.3.1 Estimate the Values of the Functional 192

6.3.2 The Variational Scheme 202

6.4 The *a priori* Estimates for Prescribing Scalar Curvature 203

6.4.1 In the Region Where $R < 0$ 204

6.4.2 In the Region Where R is Small 204

6.4.3 In the Regions Where $R > 0$ 206

7 Maximum Principles 209

7.1 Introduction 209

7.2 Weak Maximum Principles 214

7.3 The Hopf Lemma and Strong Maximum Principles 218

7.4 Maximum Principles Based on Comparisons 224

7.5 A Maximum Principle for Integral Equations 227

8 Methods of Moving Planes and Moving Spheres 231

8.1 Outline of the Method of Moving Planes 233

8.2 Applications of the Maximum Principles Based on Comparisons 235

8.2.1 Symmetry of Solutions in a Unit Ball 235

8.2.2 Symmetry of Solutions of $-\Delta u = u^p$ in R^n 238

8.2.3 Symmetry of Solutions for $-\Delta u = e^u$ in R^2 246

8.3 Method of Moving Planes in a Local Way 251

8.3.1 The Background 251

8.3.2 The A Priori Estimates 253

8.4 Method of Moving Spheres 260

8.4.1 The Background 260

8.4.2 Necessary Conditions 262

8.5 Method of Moving Planes in Integral Forms 266

A Appendices 275

A.1 Notation 275

A.1.1 Algebraic and Geometric Notation 275

A.1.2 Notation for Functions and Derivatives 276

XII Contents

A.1.3	Function Spaces	277
A.1.4	Notation for Estimates	279
A.2	Notation and Basic Facts from Riemannian Geometry	279
A.3	Common Inequalities and Their Proofs	282
A.4	Calderón-Zygmund's Decomposition	284
A.5	The Contracting Mapping Principle	286
A.6	The Arzela-Ascoli Theorem	288
A.7	The Proof of Lemma 5.2.1	288
References	291
Index	297