

To begin with, suppose that $V \subset U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ are open in \mathbb{R}^n with \bar{V} relatively compact in the next.

($\bar{V} \subset U \subset \bar{U} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, \bar{V}, \bar{U} compact.)

Functions with compact support in U may be considered as functions on a torus.

Suppose that $v_1(x), v_2(x), \dots, v_n(x)$ are C^∞ vector fields in V that are everywhere linearly independent, and that $\rho(x)$ is positive function on V . For $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$, the Sobolev 0- and 1-norms are equivalent to

$$\int_V \rho(x) |\varphi(x)|^2 dx, \quad \int_V \rho(x) \left\{ |\varphi(x)|^2 + \sum_i |\underbrace{v_i(x) \cdot \varphi(x)}_{\text{directional derivative}}|^2 \right\} dx,$$

respectively. More generally, note that the commutator

$[v_i, v_j] \cdot \varphi = v_i(v_j \varphi) - v_j(v_i \varphi)$ is an operator of order 1, where an operator of order is one involving at most s -derivatives and denoted by a generic symbol $A^s \varphi$. An expression

$$v^\alpha(\varphi) = v_1^{\alpha_1} (v_2^{\alpha_2} \dots (v_n^{\alpha_n} \varphi) \dots)$$

is independent of the ordering modulo operators of order $< [\alpha]$. It follows that the Sobolev s -norm of $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$ is equivalent to

$$\sum_{[\alpha] \leq s} \int |v^\alpha \varphi(x)|^2 dx.$$

Since $0 < m \leq \rho(x) \leq M$ for all $x \in V$,

$$m \int_V |\varphi(x)|^2 dx \leq \int_V \rho(x) |\varphi(x)|^2 dx \leq M \int_V |\varphi(x)|^2 dx$$