

Regularity estimates for the parabolic normalized p -Laplace equation

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1. Motivation;
2. Previous developments;
3. Approximation methods;
4. Improved regularity in Hölder spaces;
5. Regularity estimates in Sobolev spaces;
6. Sketch of the proof.

Motivation

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In this case, we pointed out well-known properties:

1. The equation is in divergence form;
2. The variational structure of the equation;
3. Every weak solution of p -Laplace equation in the distribution sense is $\mathcal{C}^{1,\alpha}$ for some $\alpha > 0$.

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We study regularity theory for the viscosity solutions to

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_p^N u(x, t) = f(x, t) \quad \text{in } Q_1,$$

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where

1. The **normalized p -Laplace operator** is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_p^N u &:= |Du|^{2-p} \Delta_p u \\ &= \Delta u + (p-2) \Delta_\infty u \\ &= \Delta u + (p-2) \left\langle D^2 u \frac{Du}{|Du|}, \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right\rangle\end{aligned}$$

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2. The right-hand side f is a **continuous and bounded** function in Q_1 and $1 < p < \infty$.

Some remarks:

1. The equation above can be seen as a uniformly parabolic model in **nondivergence form**, with constants $\min\{(p-1), 1\}$ and $\max\{(p-1), 1\}$

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1. The equation above can be seen as a uniformly parabolic model in **nondivergence form**, with constants $\min\{(p-1), 1\}$ and $\max\{(p-1), 1\}$;
2. This model has a singularity on the set $\{Du = 0\}$, which implies that **classical $C^{1+\alpha}$ -regularity** can not be applied directly.

Motivation

The normalized p -Laplace equation appears in many branches of mathematics.

- For $p \rightarrow 1$,

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_1^N u(x, t) = 0$$

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- For $p \rightarrow \infty$,

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_\infty^N u(x, t) = 0$$

This equation finds an application in **image processing**.

Viscosity solutions

Let $1 < p < \infty$ and f is a continuous function in Q_1 . We say that $u \in \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$ is a **viscosity subsolution** to

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_p^N u(x, t) = f(x, t)$$

if, for every $(x_0, t_0) \in Q_1$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^2(Q_1)$ such that $u - \varphi$ has a **local maximum** at (x_0, t_0) , we have

$\varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta_p^N \varphi(x_0, t_0) \leq f(x_0, t_0),$	if $D\varphi(x_0, t_0) \neq 0$
$\varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta \varphi(x_0, t_0) - (p-2)\lambda_{\max}(D^2 \varphi(x_0, t_0))$ $\leq f(x_0, t_0),$	if $D\varphi(x_0, t_0) = 0$ and $p \geq 2$.
$\varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta \varphi(x_0, t_0) - (p-2)\lambda_{\min}(D^2 \varphi(x_0, t_0))$ $\leq f(x_0, t_0),$	if $D\varphi(x_0, t_0) = 0$ and $1 < p < 2$.

Viscosity solution

Conversely, we say that $u \in \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$ is a **viscosity supersolution** to

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_p^N u(x, t) = f(x, t)$$

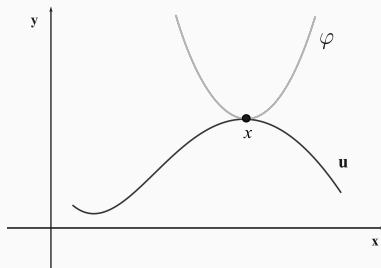
if, $(x_0, t_0) \in Q_1$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^2(Q_1)$ such that $u - \varphi$ has a **local minimum** at (x_0, t_0) , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta_p^N \varphi(x_0, t_0) &\geq f(x_0, t_0), && \text{if } D\varphi(x_0, t_0) \neq 0 \\ \varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta \varphi(x_0, t_0) - (p-2)\lambda_{\min}(D^2\varphi(x_0, t_0)) &\geq f(x_0, t_0), && \text{if } D\varphi(x_0, t_0) = 0 \text{ and } p \geq 2. \\ \varphi_t(x_0, t_0) - \Delta \varphi(x_0, t_0) - (p-2)\lambda_{\max}(D^2\varphi(x_0, t_0)) &\geq f(x_0, t_0), && \text{if } D\varphi(x_0, t_0) = 0 \text{ and } 1 < p < 2. \end{aligned}$$

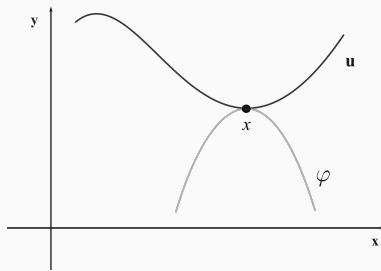
We call u is a **viscosity solution**, when it is subsolution and supersolution.

Viscosity Solutions

Viscosity Subsolution



Viscosity Supersolution



Previous developments

Manfredi, Parviainen and Rossi (2010): The authors characterized solutions to

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in terms of an asymptotic mean value property. They also established the existence of solutions to using game-theoretic arguments.

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Banerjee and Garofalo (2013): They proved existence of the solutions to

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_p^N u(x, t) = 0,$$

and uniqueness by using comparison principles.

Previous developments

Parviainen and Ruosteenoja (2016): The authors obtained local Hölder and Lipschitz estimates to

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta u - (p(x, t) - 2)\Delta_{\infty}^N u(x, t) = 0,$$

By using a game theoretic method for the case $p = p(x, t) > 2$.

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Attouchi and Parviainen (2018): The authors showed that viscosity solutions of

$$u_t - \Delta u - (p - 2) \left\langle D^2 u \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|}, \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|} \right\rangle = f,$$

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1. The solutions are of class $\mathcal{C}^{\beta, \beta/2}$ with $0 < \beta < 1$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$;
2. For all $t \in [-r^2, 0]$, if $\text{osc}_{B_r} u(\cdot, t) \leq A$, we obtain that the oscillation of u in Q_r is bounded from above by $CA + 4r^2 \|f\|_{L^\infty(Q_1)}$.

Høeg and Lindqvist (2020): The authors proved that viscosity solutions of

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Dong, Peng, Zhang and Zhou (2020): The authors showed that viscosity solutions of

$$u_t(x, t) - \Delta_p^N u(x, t) = 0,$$

are of class $W^{2,1;q}$ for $q < 2 + \delta_{n,p}$ with $\delta_{n,p} \in (0, 1)$, when $p \in (1, 2) \cup \left(2, 3 + \frac{2}{d-2}\right)$.

Approximation methods

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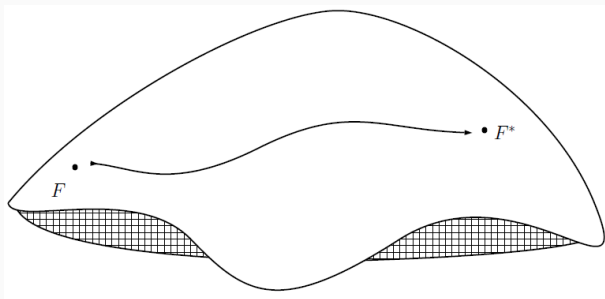
General idea of the method

The strategy is to create a path connecting the studied equation for a nice limiting equation. Thus, we transport these great properties to the studied operator through this path

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Improved regularity in Hölder spaces

Approximation Lemma Let $u \in \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$ be a normalized viscosity solution to

$$u_t - \Delta u - (p-2) \left\langle D^2 u \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|}, \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|} \right\rangle = f \text{ in } Q_1$$

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where $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $f \in L^\infty(Q_1) \cap \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$. Given $\delta > 0$, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that, if

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where $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $f \in L^\infty(Q_1) \cap \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$. Given $\delta > 0$, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that, if

$$\|f\|_{L^\infty(Q_1)} + |p - 2| < \varepsilon,$$

then we can find $h \in \mathcal{C}^{2,1}(Q_{7/9})$ such that

$$\sup_{Q_{7/9}} |u(x, t) - h(x, t)| < \delta.$$

The result follows from two main ingredients:

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Consequences:

1. The solutions of the normalized p -Laplace are close to the solutions of the Heat equation.

Regularity in Hölder Spaces with respect to the spatial variable

Theorem (A. -Santos) Let $u \in \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$ be a normalized viscosity solution of

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we can find a constant $0 < \rho < 1$ and a sequence of affine functions $(\ell_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of the form $\ell_n(x, t) := a_n + b_n \cdot x$ satisfying

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$$|a_{n+1} - a_n| \leq C\rho^{n(1+\alpha)} \quad \text{and} \quad |b_{n+1} - b_n| \leq C\rho^{n\alpha}$$

for a constant $C > 0$ and for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Ideas behind the proof and some consequences

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Sketch of the proof

Take $\delta > 0$, it follows from the Approximation Lemma that there exists function $h \in \mathcal{C}^{2,1}(Q_{8/9})$ such that

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Making universal choices, we define

$$\rho := (1/2C)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta := \rho^{1+\alpha}/2.$$

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Notice that v_k solves

$$(v_k)_t - \Delta v_k - (p-2) \left\langle D^2 v_k \frac{Dv_k + \rho^{-k\alpha} b_k}{|Dv_k + \rho^{-k\alpha} b_k|}, \frac{Dv_k + \rho^{-k\alpha} b_k}{|Dv_k + \rho^{-k\alpha} b_k|} \right\rangle = f_k \text{ in } Q_1,$$

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where $f_k := \frac{1}{\rho^{k(\alpha-1)}} f$.

It follows from the induction hypothesis that v_k satisfies

Approximation Lemma, that is, there exists $\tilde{h} \in \mathcal{C}^{2,1}(Q_{7/9})$, so that

$$\sup_{Q_{7/9}} |v_k(x, t) - \tilde{h}(x, t)| < \delta.$$

Sketch of the proof

As a consequence of case $n = 1$, there exists an affine function $\tilde{\ell}$ such that

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Defining $\ell_{k+1}(x, t) := \ell_k(x, t) + \rho^{k(1+\alpha)}\tilde{\ell}(\rho^{-k}x, \rho^{-2k}t)$ yields

$$\sup_{Q_{\rho^{k+1}}} |u(x, t) - \ell_{k+1}(x, t)| \leq \rho^{(k+1)(1+\alpha)}$$

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$$\sup_{Q_{\rho^{k+1}}} |u(x, t) - \ell_{k+1}(x, t)| \leq \rho^{(k+1)(1+\alpha)}.$$

Also, the coefficients satisfying

$$|a_{k+1} - a_k| \leq C\rho^{k(1+\alpha)} \tag{1}$$

and

$$|b_{k+1} - b_k| \leq C\rho^{k\alpha} \tag{2}$$

for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Regularity in Hölder Spaces with respect to the time

Theorem (A. -Santos) Let u be a normalized viscosity solution to

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where $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $f \in L^\infty(Q_1) \cap \mathcal{C}(Q_1)$. If

$$\|f\|_{L^\infty(Q_1)} + |p-2| < \varepsilon,$$

then there exists $C > 0$ such that for all $t \in (-r^2, 0)$

$$|u(0, t) - u(0, 0)| \leq C|t|^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}},$$

for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

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2. Control the oscillation for a solution of a uniformly parabolic equation.

Consequences to regularity theory:

1. The solutions with respect the time are of class $\mathcal{C}^\alpha$.

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From the Hölder regularity result, we have

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In particular,

$$|u(0, t) - u(0, 0)| = |v(0, t)| \leq C|t|^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}.$$

Regularity in Sobolev Spaces

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Notice that

1. The solution v_ε is a classical solution (in the interior);
2. The gradient of v_ε is bounded from above with a bound independent of ε .

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There exists $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ such that if

$$|p - 2| \leq \varepsilon_1,$$

then $u \in W^{2,1;q}(Q_{1/2})$ for every $1 < q < \infty$. In addition, there exists a universal constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|u\|_{W^{2,1;q}(Q_{1/2})} \leq C \|u\|_{L^\infty(Q_1)}.$$

Ideas behind the proof and some consequences

The result follows from two main ingredients:

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Consequences to regularity theory:

1. By Sobolev embedding, we obtain $\mathcal{C}^{1,1-}$ for the homogeneous case;
2. In our case, the Sobolev estimates implies the stronger version of the Hölder regularity result for $f = 0$;
3. We obtain **higher integrability** for the viscosity solutions of the problem, with the trade off of losing the precise range on the values of p for which the estimate holds true.

Sketch of the proof

Consider the operator

$$F(D^2u, x, t) := -\Delta u - (p-2) \frac{D^2u Dv_\varepsilon \cdot Dv_\varepsilon}{|Dv_\varepsilon|^2 + \varepsilon^2}$$

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3. The function v_ε solves

$$(v_\varepsilon)_t + F(D^2v_\varepsilon, x, t) = 0.$$

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we obtain that $v_\varepsilon \in W^{2,1;q}(Q_{1/2})$, for all $q \geq 1$ with estimate

$$\|v_\varepsilon\|_{W^{2,1;q}} \leq C.$$

Hence,

1. There exists v_∞ such that $v_\varepsilon \rightarrow v_\infty$ uniformly in compact sets;
2. By stability result, we obtain that v_∞ solves the homogeneous normalized p -Laplace equation;
3. It follows from the uniqueness that $v_\infty = u$;
4. Therefore $u \in W^{2,1;q}(Q_{1/2})$ with estimate.

Muito obrigada