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Mapping properties of regular and strongly degenerate elliptic differential operators in the Besov spaces $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$. The case $0 < p < \infty$

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MAPPING PROPERTIES OF REGULAR AND STRONGLY DEGENERATE ELLIPTIC DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS IN THE BESOV SPACES $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$. THE CASE $0 < p < \infty$

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1. Main Results

Let Ω be a bounded C^∞ -domain in the Euclidean n -space R_n . Let A ,

$$(Af)(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} a_\alpha(x) D^\alpha f(x), \quad a_\alpha(x) \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}),$$

be a properly elliptic differential operator of order $2m$. Here $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Let B_j ,

$$(B_j f)(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m_j} b_{j,\alpha}(x) D^\alpha f(x), \quad b_{j,\alpha}(x) \in C^\infty(\partial\Omega),$$

$j = 1, \dots, m$, be m differential operators defined on the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of Ω . All functions in this paper, in particular the coefficients of the above differential operators, are complex-valued. As usual, $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ is said to be a regular elliptic problem if $0 \leq m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_m \leq 2m-1$ and if $\{B_j\}_{j=1}^m$ is a normal system satisfying the complementing condition with respect to A . For details concerning these well-known definitions we refer to [1] (cf. also [4], pp. 361 - 363). It is convenient for our purpose to assume that the following additional assumption is satisfied.

Hypothesis. If $f(x) \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ such that $(Af)(x) = 0$ for $x \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $(B_j f)(x) = 0$ for $x \in \partial\Omega$ and $j = 1, \dots, m$, then $f(x) \equiv 0$ in $\bar{\Omega}$.

Remark 1. In other words, it is assumed that the origin belongs to the resolvent set if $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ is considered as a mapping between appropriate function spaces.

Definition 1. (i) If

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} \text{either } 1 < p < \infty \text{ and } 0 < s < \frac{1}{p} \\ \text{or } 0 < p \leq 1 \text{ and } n(\frac{1}{p} - 1) < s < 1 \end{cases}$$

then $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$ is the completion of $C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ in the quasi-norm (norm if $p \geq 1$)

$$(2) \quad \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)} = \left(\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \left(\int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{n+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

(ii) If p and s satisfy (1) and if $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, then

$$(3) \quad B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega) = \{f \mid D^{\alpha} f \in B_{p,p}^s(\Omega) \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ with } |\alpha| \leq 2m \}.$$

Remark 2. $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)$ is equipped in the usual way with a quasi-norm.

Remark 3. These are the underlying Besov spaces. The theory described below can be extended to an essentially larger class of Besov spaces $B_{p,q}^s(\Omega)$ and probably also to spaces of Hardy - Sobolev type defined on domains, cf. [8]. However the definitions are more complicated, cf. also Section 2. Furthermore, one can also include the case $p = \infty$, which yields as a special case the famous Agmon-Douglis-Nirenberg theory in the Hölder - Zygmund spaces $\mathcal{C}^s(\Omega) = B_{\infty,\infty}^s(\Omega)$, where $s > 0$, cf. [8].

Definition 2. Let ν be the (outer) normal with respect to $\partial\Omega$. If p , s , and m have the meaning of Definition 1(ii) and if $k = 0, \dots, 2m-1$, then $B_{p,p}^{s+2m-k-\frac{1}{p}}(\partial\Omega)$ is the set of all distributions f on the compact C_{∞}^{∞} -manifold $\partial\Omega$ for which there exists a function $g \in B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)$ with $\frac{\partial^k g}{\partial \nu^k} \Big|_{\partial\Omega} = f$.

Remark 4. The spaces $B_{p,p}^s(\mathbb{R}_n)$ (and more general $B_{p,q}^s(\mathbb{R}_n)$) can be defined for all values of s , p (and q) with $-\infty < s < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$ (and $0 < q \leq \infty$). Using the standard method of local coordinates one can give a direct definition of the corresponding spaces on $\partial\Omega$, cf. [8]. In particular, the spaces in Definition 2 depend only on the difference $2m-k$ and not on the special choice of m and k . If $1 < p < \infty$, then one has a well-known assertion, cf. e. g. [4], p. 330, (cf. also Step 4 in Section 2, where further comments, also concerning the correctness of Definition 2, are given).

Theorem 1. Let $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ be regular elliptic and let the Hypothesis be satisfied. If p and s are given by (1) then $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ yields an isomorphic mapping from

$$(4) \quad B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega) \text{ onto } B_{p,p}^s(\Omega) \times \prod_{j=1}^m B_{p,p}^{s+2m-m_j-\frac{1}{p}}(\partial\Omega).$$

Remark 5. The proof of this theorem is long and complicated. However in Section 2 we shall try to describe some of the main ideas and key-assertions of the proof. A more detailed version, including also more general spaces, will be published elsewhere, cf. [8].

In [4], Chapter 6, we considered a rather general class of strongly degenerate elliptic differential operators in the framework of an L_p -theory, where $1 < p < \infty$. On the one hand, we want to

extend this theory to the spaces $B_{p,p}^s$ in the sense of Definition 1(i), on the other hand, in order to avoid technical difficulties, we restrict ourselves to a model case. Again, Ω is a bounded C^∞ -domain in R_n . The distance of $x \in \Omega$ from $\partial\Omega$ is denoted by $d(x)$.

Definition 3. If (1) is satisfied, $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and $\nu > 2m$, then $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega, d^{-\nu}(x))$ is the completion of $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ in the quasi-norm (norm if $p \geq 1$)

$$(5) \quad \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)} + \|d^{-\nu} f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)}.$$

Theorem 2. If all the parameters have the same meaning as in Definition 3 and if λ is a complex number with sufficiently large real part, then the operator $A + \lambda E$,

$$(6) \quad (Af)(x) = (-\Delta)^m f + d^{-\nu}(x) f(x), \quad E \text{ identity},$$

yields an isomorphic mapping from $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega, d^{-\nu}(x))$ onto $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$.

Remark 6. In Section 3 we sketch some main ideas of the proof. Theorem 2 can be extended essentially to more general operators and also to a wider class of underlying spaces. Detailed proofs and a precise description of the mentioned extensions will be published elsewhere, cf. [7].

2. Outline of the Proof of Theorem 1

Step 1. (Extension). If p and s satisfy (1) and if Ω in (2) and (3) is replaced by R_n , then one obtains corresponding spaces $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(R_n)$. First of all we need properties of the spaces $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)$ and $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(R_n)$. It can be shown that $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)$ is the restriction of $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(R_n)$ to Ω (factor space) and that there exists a linear and bounded extension operator from $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)$ into $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(R_n)$.

Step 2. (Fourier decomposition and Fourier multiplier). By Step 1 it is clear that properties of the spaces $B_{p,q}^\sigma(R_n)$ (in our case $\sigma = s + 2m$ and $p = q$ with the above restrictions) are of interest. Peetre's definition of the Besov spaces $B_{p,q}^\sigma(R_n)$ with $-\infty < \sigma < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$, and $0 < q \leq \infty$ is the following. Let $S(R_n)$ be the Schwartz space and let $S'(R_n)$ be the space of tempered distributions.

Let $\varphi = \{\varphi_j(x)\}_{j=0}^\infty \subset S(R_n)$ be a smooth dyadic resolution of unity in R_n , i. e. $0 \leq \varphi_j(x) \leq 1$, $\sum_{j=0}^\infty \varphi_j(x) = 1$ for $x \in R_n$,

$$\text{supp } \varphi_0 \subset \{y \mid |y| \leq 2\}, \quad \text{supp } \varphi_j \subset \{y \mid 2^{j-1} \leq |y| \leq 2^{j+1}\}$$

if $j = 1, 2, \dots$; for any multi-index γ there exists a constant c_γ such that

$$|D^j \varphi_j(x)| \leq c_j 2^{-j|\alpha|} \quad , \quad x \in R_n, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

If $-\infty < \sigma < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$, and $0 < q \leq \infty$, then

$$B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n) = \{f \mid f \in S'(R_n), \|f\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)} = \left[\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 2^{j\sigma\varphi} \left(\int_{R_n} |F^{-1}[\varphi_j Ff](x)|^p dx \right)^{\frac{q}{p}} \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} < \infty$$

for all systems $\varphi \}$,

(usual modification if p or q equals ∞). Here F and F^{-1} are the Fourier transform and its inverse on R_n , respectively. It can be shown that $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$ is a quasi-Banach space, where all the quasi-norms $\|f\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)}$ for different choices of φ are mutually equivalent. Furthermore, $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$ coincides with the above spaces $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(R_n)$ if $\sigma' = s+2m$ and $p = q$ (under the above restrictions of the parameters s , p and m). All the spaces $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$ satisfy the following weak Michlin - Hörmander Fourier multiplier property. There exists a natural number M and a positive number c (depending on σ' , p and q) such that for all infinitely differentiable functions $m(x)$ on R_n and all $f \in B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$

$$\|F^{-1}[m(\cdot)Ff]\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)} \leq c \left(\sup_{\substack{|\alpha| \leq M \\ x \in R_n}} (1+|x|^2)^{\frac{|\alpha|}{2}} |D^{\alpha} m(x)| \right) \|f\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)}.$$

(We omit the index φ in $\|\cdot\|_{B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)}$ because all these quasi-norms are mutually equivalent). Proofs of the assertions in this step may be found in [3] and [5].

Step 3. (Properties of the spaces $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$). The goal is to extend Arkeryd's proof (cf. [2] or [4], Chapter 5) for boundary value problems of $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ in the framework of an L_p -theory with $1 < p < \infty$ to the spaces $B_{p,p}^s$ in the sense of Definition 1(i). For this purpose, beside the extension property and the Fourier multiplier property described in the preceding steps, some other properties of the corresponding spaces on R_n are indispensable. (i) (Diffeomorphic mappings, cf. [8]). If $y = \psi(x)$ is an infinitely differentiable one-to-one mapping from R_n onto itself such that $\psi(x) = x$ for large values of $|x|$, then $f(x) \rightarrow f(\psi(x))$ yields an isomorphic mapping from $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$ onto itself. Here $-\infty < \sigma' < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$, and $0 < q \leq \infty$. (ii) (Multiplication property, cf. [5]). If $g(x) \in C_0^{\infty}(R_n)$ then $f(x) \rightarrow g(x)f(x)$ yields a linear and bounded mapping from $B_{p,q}^{\sigma, \varphi}(R_n)$ into itself. Again $-\infty < \sigma' < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$.

Step 4. (Spaces on domains and manifolds). The two properties described in Step 3 (diffeomorphic mappings and multiplication property) are the basis for the well-known method of local coordinates. This gives the possibility to define the spaces $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\partial\Omega)$, where $-\infty < \sigma < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$ by standard arguments, cf. [4], pp. 280/81 for the usual Besov spaces. The next step shows that these spaces coincide with the corresponding spaces in Definition 2 (under the restrictions of the parameters in the sense of Definition 2). Finally, by restriction of $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\mathbb{R}_n)$ to Ω one can define spaces $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\Omega)$ for all values $-\infty < \sigma < \infty$, $0 < p \leq \infty$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$. All these spaces have the extension property described in Step 1, cf. [8].

Step 5. (Traces). Let ν be the (outer) normal on $\partial\Omega$ and let $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. By the above properties and the assertion in [5], 2.4.2, it follows that R,

$$Rf = \left\{ f|_{\partial\Omega}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial \nu}|_{\partial\Omega}, \dots, \frac{\partial^r f}{\partial \nu^r}|_{\partial\Omega} \right\},$$

is a linear and bounded mapping from $B_{p,q}^{\sigma}(\Omega)$ onto

$$\bigcup_{j=0}^r B_{p,q}^{\sigma - \frac{1}{p} - j}(\partial\Omega),$$

if $0 < p \leq \infty$, $0 < q \leq \infty$, and $s > r + \frac{1}{p} + \max(0, (n-1)(\frac{1}{p} - 1))$.

Now it follows that Definition 2 is meaningful and that the spaces defined there coincide with the corresponding spaces in the sense of the preceding step.

Step 6. (A-priori estimate). If p and s satisfy (1) then there exist two positive constants c_1 and c_2 such that for all $f \in C^{\infty}(\bar{\Omega})$

$$(7) \quad c_1 \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)} \leq \|Af\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)} + \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)} + \sum_{j=1}^m \|B_j f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m-m_j - \frac{1}{p}}(\partial\Omega)} \leq c_2 \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)}.$$

Here $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ is regular elliptic. For the proof of (7) it is not necessary that the above Hypothesis is true. The idea is to carry over Arkeryd's proof, cf. [2], of a corresponding a-priori estimate in the framework of an L_p -theory with $1 < p < \infty$, to the above basic spaces $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$ instead of $L_p(\Omega)$. We use the version of Arkeryd's proof given in [4], pp. 364 - 378. An examination of that proof shows that many arguments can be carried over from L_p to $B_{p,p}^s$ if one uses the 5 main assertions for general Besov spaces mentioned above: extension properties (Step 1 and Step 4), Fourier multiplier properties (Step 2), diffeomorphic mappings (Step 3), multiplication properties (Step 3), and traces (Step 5). However

there remain essentially two points which are trivial for L_p -spaces but non-trivial for $B_{p,p}^s$ -spaces. (i) If p and s satisfy (1) then S ,

$$(Sf)(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in \Omega \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in R_n - \Omega \end{cases}$$

is a linear and bounded operator from $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$ into $B_{p,p}^s(R_n)$. This assertion follows from the method of local coordinates and the considerations in [5], 2.6.4. Cf. also [8], Proposition 3.5. (ii) Let $a_\alpha(x)$ be the coefficients of A and let K be a ball in R_n with the centre x^0 and the radius τ , where we assume $0 < \tau < 1$. If p and s satisfy (1), then there exists a constant c , which is independent of x^0 and τ such that for all $\psi \in C_0^\infty(K)$ and all $f \in B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$

$$\sum_{|\alpha|=2m} \|(a_\alpha(x) - a_\alpha(x^0)) D^\alpha(\psi f)\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)} \leq c \tau \| \psi f \|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega)} + c \| \psi f \|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m-1}(\Omega)}.$$

Using the method of local coordinates then this estimate follows from

$$\|(a_\alpha(x) - a_\alpha(x^0)) \psi f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(R_n)} \leq c \tau \| \psi f \|_{B_{p,p}^s(R_n)},$$

where again c is independent of τ . This inequality coincides essentially with formula (52) in [6]. If one uses the special properties (i) and (ii) and the above-mentioned general properties for the spaces $B_{p,p}^s$, then one obtains (7) in the same way as in [4], pp. 364 - 378, where L_p is replaced by $B_{p,p}^s$.

Step 7. (Proof of Theorem 1). If the Hypothesis is satisfied then the term $\|f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)}$ in (7) can be omitted (standard arguments). Now, Theorem 1 is a consequence of the classical theory for $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_m\}$ and (7).

3. Outline of the Proof of Theorem 2

Step 1. (Mappings in the nuclear space $C_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$). If

$$C_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega}) = \{f \mid f \in C_0^\infty(R_n), \text{ supp } f \subset \bar{\Omega}\},$$

then $A + \lambda E$ with a sufficiently large real part of λ yields an isomorphic mapping from $C_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ onto itself. This is a special case of Theorem 1 in [4], p. 420.

Step 2. (Decomposition). Next we need some properties of the spaces $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$, where s and p satisfy (1). There exists a constant c such that for all $f \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$

$$(8) \int_{\Omega} d^{-sp}(x) |f(x)|^p dx \leq c \left(\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dx + \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^p}{|x-y|^{n+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

This is a fractional Hardy inequality. A proof of (8) for $1 < p < \infty$ may be found in [4], p. 259. Using this result, one can extend (8) with $1 < p < \infty$ to all couples (s, p) satisfying (1). In particular,

$$(9) \left(\int_{\Omega} d^{-sp}(x) |f(x)|^p dx + \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^p}{|x-y|^{n+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

is an equivalent quasi-norm in $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$. Now we have a situation which is similar to that one in [4], Subsection 3.2.3 and Subsection 6.3.1. The decomposition methods developed there can be applied (however some non-trivial additional considerations are necessary, for details we refer to [7]). Let $K_{j,l} = \{x \mid |x - x_{j,l}| < \tau 2^{-j}\}$ be balls such that $x_{j,l} \in \{y \mid y \in \Omega, 2^{-j-1} \leq d(y) \leq 2^{-j}\}$ if $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, with a sufficiently small τ . It is assumed that $\Omega = \bigcup_{j=0}^{\infty} \bigcup_{\ell=1}^{N_j} K_{j,\ell}$ (modification for $j = 0$ or for small values of j if necessary).

Let $\varphi = \{\varphi_{j,l}\}_{\substack{j=0,1,2,\dots \\ l=1,\dots,N_j}}$ be a smooth resolution of unity with respect to the balls $K_{j,l}$, i. e. if $x \in \Omega$ then

$$0 \leq \varphi_{j,l}(x), \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_j} \varphi_{j,\ell}(x) = 1, \quad \text{supp } \varphi_{j,\ell} \subset K_{j,\ell}.$$

Furthermore, for any multi-index γ there exists a number c_{γ} such that

$$|D^{\gamma} \varphi_{j,\ell}(x)| \leq c_{\gamma} 2^{j|\gamma|} \quad \text{if } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots \text{ and } \ell = 1, \dots, N_j.$$

Now it can be proved that for any system φ with the indicated properties

$$(10) \quad \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_j} \|\varphi_{j,\ell} f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\mathbb{R}_n)}^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

is an equivalent quasi-norm in $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$ (here s and p satisfy (1)).

Similarly one obtains that for the spaces $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega, d^{-\nu p}(x))$ described in Definition 3 and formula (5)

$$(11) \quad \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_j} \|\varphi_{j,\ell} f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\mathbb{R}_n)}^p + 2^{j\nu p} \|\varphi_{j,\ell} f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\mathbb{R}_n)}^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

is an equivalent quasi-norm.

Step 3. (A-priori estimate). Now we have a situation which is simi-

lar as in [4], Section 6.3. The proofs given there can be extended to the above case, where (10) and (11) play a decisive role. Again some non-trivial modifications are necessary, cf. [7], where details are given. One obtains the following a-priori estimate. If p and s satisfy (1) then there exists a real number λ_0 and two positive numbers c_1 and c_2 such that for all complex numbers λ with $\operatorname{Re} \lambda \geq \lambda_0$ and for all $f \in C_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$

$$c_1 \left\| (A + \lambda E)f \right\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)} \leq \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega, d^{-\nu p}(x))} + |\lambda| \|f\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)}$$

$$\leq c_2 \left\| (A + \lambda E)f \right\|_{B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)}$$

Step 4. (Proof of Theorem 2). Since $C_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ is dense in $B_{p,p}^s(\Omega)$ and dense in $B_{p,p}^{s+2m}(\Omega, d^{-\nu p}(x))$, Theorem 2 is an easy consequence of Step 1 and the a-priori estimate of the preceding step.

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