Contribution ID: **21** Type: **not specified**

The extension of traces for Sobolev mappings between manifolds

Thursday, June 27, 2024 9:00 AM (1 hour)

Given compact Riemannian manifolds $\mathcal{M}$ and $\mathcal{N}$ and $p \in (1, \infty)$, the question of traces for Sobolev mappings consists in characterising the mappings from $\partial\mathcal{M}$ to $\mathcal{N}$ that can arises of maps in the first-order Sobolev space $\dot{W}^{1,p}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$.
A direct application of Gagliardo's characterisation of traces for the linear spaces $\dot{W}^{1,p}(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$ shows that traces of maps in $\dot{W}^{1,p}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ should belong to the fractional Sobolev-Slobodeckij space $\dot{W}^{1-1/p,p}(\partial\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$.
There is however no reason for Gagliardo's linear extension to satisfy the nonlinear constraint imposed by $\mathcal{N}$ on the target.

In the case $p > \dim \mathcal{M}$, Sobolev mappings are continuous and thus traces of Sobolev maps are the mappings of $\dot{W}^{1-1/p,p}(\partial\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ that are also restrictions of continuous functions (F. Bethuel, F. Demengel, <i>Extensions for Sobolev mappings between manifolds</i> (1995)).
The critical case $p = \dim \mathcal{M}$ can be treated similarly thanks to their vanishing mean oscillation property (F. Bethuel, F. Demengel, <i>Extensions for Sobolev mappings between manifolds</i> (1995); H. Brezis, L. Nirenberg, <i>Degree theory and BMO.</i> I. <i>Compact manifolds without boundaries</i> (1995); R. Schoen, K. Uhlenbeck, <i>A regularity theory for harmonic maps</i> (1982)).

The case $1 < p < \dim \mathcal{M}$ is more delicate.
It was first proved that when the first homotopy $\pi_1(\mathcal{N}), \dots, \pi_{\lfloor p-1 \rfloor}(\mathcal{N})$ are <i>trivial</i>, then the trace operator from $\dot{W}^{1,p}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ to $\dot{W}^{1-1/p,p}(\partial\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ is surjective (R. Hardt, Lin F., <i>Mappings minimizing the L^p norm of the gradient</i> (1987)).
On the other hand, several conditions for the surjectivity have been known: topological obstructions require $\pi_{\lfloor p-1 \rfloor}(\mathcal{N})$ to be <i>trivial</i> whereas analytical obstructions arise unless the groups $\pi_1(\mathcal{N}), \dots, \pi_{\lfloor p-1 \rfloor}(\mathcal{N})$ are <i>finite</i> (F. Bethuel, <i>A new obstruction to the extension problem for Sobolev maps between manifolds</i> (2014)) and, when $p \geq 2$ is an integer, $\pi_{p-1}(\mathcal{N})$ is <i>trivial</i> (<i>Trace theory for Sobolev mappings into a manifold</i> (2021)).

In a recent work, I have completed the characterisation of the cases where the trace is surjective, proving that the known necessary conditions turn out to be sufficient (J. Van Schaftingen, <i>The extension of traces for Sobolev mappings between manifolds</i>).
I extend the traces thanks to a new construction which works on the domain rather than in the image. When $p \geq \dim \mathcal{M}$ the same construction also provides a Sobolev extension with linear estimates for maps that have a continuous extension, provided that there are no known analytical obstructions to such a control.

Presenter: VAN SCHAFTINGEN, Jean (Université catholique de Louvain)