COMPACT IMBEDDING THEOREMS FOR QUASIBOUNDED DOMAINS

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1. **Introduction.** Let G be an unbounded open set in Euclidean n-space E_n . In this paper we investigate (for a large class of such domains) the problem of determining for which values of m, p, j and r the Sobolev space imbedding

$$(1) W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G)$$

is or is not compact. Provided j < m continuous imbeddings of this type are known to exist for $p \le r \le np(n-mp+jp)^{-1}$ if n > mp-jp or for $p \le r < \infty$ if $n \le mp-jp$ (the Sobolev Imbedding Theorem, e.g. [5, Lemma 5]). If G were bounded Kondrasov's compactness theorem [9] would yield the complete continuity of these imbeddings except in the extreme case $r = np(n-mp+jp)^{-1}$. Such compactness theorems are useful for studying existence and spectral theory for partial differential operators on G.

In a sequence of recent papers the writer [1]-[4] and C. W. Clark [6], [7], [8] have studied such compactness problems for various unbounded domains. It is clear that the imbedding (1) cannot be compact if G contains infinitely many disjoint congruent balls, for if a fixed C^{∞} function has support in one of these balls then the set of its translates with supports in the other balls is bounded in any space $W_0^{m,p}(G)$ but is not precompact in any such space. Thus a necessary condition for the compactness of imbedding (1) is that G should be quasibounded, i.e. that dist $(x, \text{bdry } G) \to 0$ whenever $|x| \to \infty$, $x \in G$. In [1] the writer has shown that if n > 1 then quasiboundedness is not sufficient for compactness.

The dimension of the boundary of G is a critical factor in determining whether or not (1) is compact. If G is quasibounded and bounded by smooth "reasonably unbroken" (n-1)-dimensional manifolds then (1) is compact [3, Theorem 1] for any m and p and for the same values of j and r as in the case of bounded G. However if G has discrete (0-dimensional) boundary then [2, Theorem 1] no such imbedding can be compact unless mp > n.

Our purpose in this paper is to study the compactness of imbedding (1) for quasibounded domains G whose boundaries are comprised of smooth manifolds

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of various dimensions. Roughly speaking our results are as follows. If k is the smallest integer for which those boundary manifolds of G having dimension not less than n-k bound a quasibounded domain then no imbedding of type (1) can be compact when mp < k. On the other hand, if, in addition, the boundary manifolds are "reasonably unbroken" and if mp > n+p-np/k then (1) is compact for the same values of j and r as in the case of bounded G. Our results thus interpolate between the extreme cases mentioned above. We consider first domains G with flat (planar) boundaries, establishing in §2 a necessary condition for the compactness of (1) for such G, and in §3 a slightly stronger sufficient condition. If m=1 these conditions are equivalent for certain domains. In §4 similar results are obtained for nonflatly-bounded domains G.

As usual, in this paper $W_0^{m,p}(G)$ denotes, for $p \ge 1$ and m = 0, 1, 2, ..., the Sobolev space obtained by completing with respect to the norm

(2)
$$||u||_{m,p,G} = \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{m} |u|_{j,p,G}^{p} \right\}^{1/p}$$

the space $C_0^{\infty}(G)$ of all infinitely differentiable, complex functions having compact support in G where

$$|u|_{j,p,G}^p = \sum_{|\alpha|=j} \int_G |D^{\alpha}u(x)|^p dx.$$

 α denotes an *n*-tuple of nonnegative integers $(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$; $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n$; $D^{\alpha} = D_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots D_n^{\alpha_n}$; $D_j = \partial/\partial x_j$. Note that $|u|_{0,p,G} = ||u||_{0,p,G}$ is the norm of u in $L^p(G)$. $W^{m,p}(G)$ represents the completion with respect to the norm (2) of the space of all infinitely differentiable functions on G for which (2) is finite. Provided the boundary of G satisfies certain mild regularity conditions [5, Lemma 5] the Sobolev Imbedding Theorem referred to above, and also (provided G is bounded) the Kondrašov Compactness Theorem, remain valid for imbeddings of $W^{m,p}(G)$. No compactness theorems of this sort are yet known if G is unbounded.

2. Flatly-bounded domains—noncompact imbeddings. Let H be a k-dimensional plane $(0 \le k \le n-1)$ in E_n and let a be a point on H. With respect to a new system of rectangular coordinates z in E_n having origin at a and obtained from the usual coordinates by an affine transformation, H has equations $z_1 = z_2 = \cdots = z_{n-k} = 0$, or more simply r = 0 where $r = \sum_{i=1}^{n-k} z_i^2$. The coordinate r, together with n-k-1 angle coordinates collectively denoted σ and the coordinates $z' = (z_{n-k+1}, \ldots, z_n)$ form a system of cylindrical polar coordinates in E_n with origin at a and cylindrical axis H.

The k-tube $T_{\delta}(H)$ of radius δ and axis H is the set $\{x \in E_n : \text{dist } (x, H) = r < \delta\}$. By a tube function for the tube $T_{\delta}(H)$ we mean a C^{∞} function $\theta : E_n \to [0, 1]$ whose value at x depends only on r = dist (x, H) and which vanishes identically near H and is identically unity outside $T_{\delta}(H)$.

LEMMA 1. Let H be a k-plane in E_n and $a \in H$. Let $1 \le p < \infty$. If u(x) = v(r) where r = dist (x, H) and $v \in C^{|\alpha|}((0, \infty))$ then for all $x \notin H$

$$|D^{\alpha}u(x)|^p \leq \operatorname{const} \sum_{j=1}^{|\alpha|} |v^{(j)}(r)|^p r^{pj-p|\alpha|}$$

where the constant depends only on α , p and k.

Proof. Since $z_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(x_j - a_j)$ and so $\partial/\partial x_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ji} \partial/\partial z_j$ we may assume with no loss of generality that H is a coordinate plane and z = x. We show that there exist homogeneous polynomials $P_{\alpha,j}(x)$ of degree $|\alpha|$ (possibly the zero polynomial) such that for r > 0

(3)
$$D^{\alpha}u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{|\alpha|} P_{\alpha,j}(x)v^{(j)}(r)r^{j-2|\alpha|}.$$

Since $|P_{\alpha,j}(x)| \le \text{const } r^{|\alpha|}$ the conclusion of the lemma for p=1 follows at once. The result for general p then follows from the well-known inequality

$$\left|\sum_{j=1}^{N} A_{j}\right|^{p} \leq \operatorname{const} \sum_{j=1}^{N} |A_{j}|^{p}$$

where the constant depends only on p and N.

Note that $D^{\alpha}u(x)=0$ unless $\alpha_{n-k+1}=\cdots=\alpha_n=0$. If $1\leq i\leq n-k$ then $D_iu(x)=v'(r)x_i/r$ which is of the required form. Assume (3) holds for all α with $|\alpha|\leq m$. If $|\beta|=m+1$ then $D^{\beta}=D_iD^{\alpha}$ for some i, α where $|\alpha|=m$. Applying the induction hypothesis and the chain rule we obtain

$$D^{\beta}u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left\{ D_{i}P_{\alpha,j}(x)v^{(j)}(r)r^{j-2m} + P_{\alpha,j}(x)v^{(j+1)}(r)x_{i}r^{j-2m-1} - (2m-j)P_{\alpha,j}(x)v^{(j)}(r)x_{i}r^{j-2m-2} \right\}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} P_{\beta,j}(x)v^{(j)}(r)r^{j-2(m+1)}$$

where $P_{\beta,j}$ is given by

$$P_{\beta,1}(x) = r^2 D_i P_{\alpha,1}(x) - (2m-1)x_i P_{\alpha,1}(x),$$

$$P_{\beta,j}(x) = r^2 D_i P_{\alpha,j}(x) - (2m-j)x_i P_{\alpha,j}(x) + x_i P_{\alpha,j-1}(x) \quad \text{if } 2 \le j \le m,$$

$$P_{\beta,m+1}(x) = x_i P_{\alpha,m}(x).$$

Clearly $P_{\alpha,j}(x)$ is a polynomial of the desired type and the proof is complete.

LEMMA 2. Let λ be a positive integer and let $r=s^{\lambda}$, s>0. If $f \in C^{j}((0,\infty))$ and $1 \le p < \infty$ then

$$(5) \qquad |(d/dr)^{j}f(r^{1/\lambda})|^{p} \leq \operatorname{const} \sum_{i=1}^{j} \lambda^{-ip} s^{ip-j\lambda p} |f^{(i)}(s)|^{p}$$

where the constant depends only on j and p.

Proof. Again the case of general p follows from the special case p=1 via (4). For p=1 (5) is an immediate consequence of the formula

(6)
$$(d/dr)^j = \lambda^{-j} \sum_{i=1}^j P_{j-i,j}(\lambda) s^{i-\lambda j} (d/ds)^i$$

where $P_{i,j}$ is a polynomial of degree *i* depending on *j*. We prove (6) by induction on *j*. Note that $d/dr = \lambda^{-1}s^{1-\lambda}d/ds$ which is of the required form. Assuming (6) we have

$$(d/dr)^{j+1} = \lambda^{-j} \sum_{i=1}^{j} P_{j-i,j}(\lambda) \lambda^{-1} s^{1-\lambda} d/ds [s^{i-\lambda j} (d/ds)^{i}]$$

$$= \lambda^{-(j+1)} \sum_{i=1}^{j} P_{j-i,j}(\lambda) \{s^{i+1-\lambda-\lambda j} (d/ds)^{i+1} + (i-\lambda j) s^{i-\lambda j-\lambda} (d/ds)^{i}\}$$

$$= \lambda^{-(j+1)} \sum_{i=1}^{j+1} P_{j+1-i,j+1}(\lambda) s^{i-\lambda(j+1)} (d/ds)^{i}$$

where the polynomials $P_{i,j+1}$ are given by

$$\begin{split} P_{0,j+1}(\lambda) &= P_{0,j}(\lambda), \\ P_{i,j+1}(\lambda) &= P_{i,j}(\lambda) + (j+1-i-\lambda j)P_{i-1,j}(\lambda) & \text{for } 1 \le i \le j-1, \\ P_{j,j+1}(\lambda) &= (1-\lambda j)P_{j-1,j}(\lambda), \end{split}$$

which are of the desired form.

LEMMA 3. Let T be a k-tube in E_n with axis H and radius $\delta \le 1$. Let $1 \le p < \infty$ and let λ be a positive integer. Then there exists a tube function θ for T satisfying for $|\alpha| > 0$,

$$|D^{\alpha}\theta(x)|^p \leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{-p} s^{p-\lambda p|\alpha|}$$

where $s^{\lambda} = r = \text{dist}(x, H)$ and the constant depends only on α , n, p and k and not on λ .

Proof. Let $f: [0, \infty) \to [0, 1]$ be a fixed C^{∞} function such that f(s) = 0 near s = 0 and f(s) = 1 for $s^{\lambda} \ge \delta$. Define θ by $\theta(x) = v(r) = f(s)$. Clearly θ is a tube function for T. By Lemmas 1 and 2 we have

$$|D^{\alpha}\theta(x)|^{p} \leq \operatorname{const} \sum_{j=1}^{|\alpha|} r^{pj-p|\alpha|} |v^{(j)}(r)|^{p}$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \sum_{j=1}^{|\alpha|} \sum_{i=1}^{j} \lambda^{-ip} s^{ip-\lambda p|\alpha|} |f^{(i)}(s)|^{p}$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{-p} s^{p-\lambda p|\alpha|}.$$

The final inequality follows because whenever $D^{\alpha}\theta(x) \neq 0$, $s < \delta^{1/\lambda} \leq 1$, and also $|f^{(i)}(s)| \leq \text{const for } 1 \leq i \leq |\alpha|$.

In the following lemma we consider several (n-k)-tubes in E_n simultaneously. Hence all the related quantities θ , r, σ , z', s, H carry subscripts ranging from 1 to N.

LEMMA 4. Let S be a bounded open set in E_n . Let H_1, \ldots, H_N be a finite collection of (n-k)-planes which intersect \overline{S} . Let m be a positive integer and let $\varepsilon > 0$. If either p > 1 and $mp \le k$ or p = 1 and m < k then there exists a function $\psi \in C^{\infty}(E_n)$ with the properties:

- (i) $\psi(x) = 0$ for x near $\bigcup_{i=1}^{N} H_i$,
- (ii) $0 \le \psi(x) \le 1$ for all x,
- (iii) $\psi(x) = 1$ for x in $E_n \bigcup_{i=1}^N T_{\delta}(H_i)$, $\delta > 0$,
- (iv) $||D^{\alpha}\psi||_{0,p,S} \leq \varepsilon$ for $0 < |\alpha| \leq m$.

Proof. We first consider the case that no two of the planes H_i intersect in \overline{S} . It is then possible to choose $\delta \leq 1$ small enough so that if $T_i = T_{\delta}(H_i)$ then $T_i \cap T_j \cap S$ is empty if $i \neq j$. By Lemma 3 there exist tube functions θ_i for T_i satisfying

$$|D^{\alpha}\theta_i(x)|^p \leq \text{const } \lambda^{-p} s_i^{p-\lambda p|\alpha|}$$

where $s_i^{\lambda} = r_i = \text{dist } (x, H_i)$ and the constant is independent of λ and α for $0 < |\alpha| \le m$. Let $\psi(x) = \theta_i(x)\theta_2(x)\cdots\theta_N(x)$. Clearly ψ satisfies (i)–(iii). Note that $D^{\alpha}\psi = 0$ outside $\bigcup_{i=1}^N T_i$ and that $D^{\alpha}\psi(x) = D^{\alpha}\theta_i(x)$ in, T_i . We have

$$\begin{split} \|D^{\alpha}\psi\|_{0,p,S}^{p} &= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \int_{S \cap T_{i}} |D^{\alpha}\theta_{i}(x)|^{p} dx \\ &\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{-p} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \int_{S \cap T_{i}} s_{i}^{p-\lambda p|\alpha|} r_{i}^{k-1} dr_{i} d\sigma_{i} dz_{i}' \\ &\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{1-p} \int_{0}^{1} s_{i}^{p-\lambda p|\alpha|+\lambda k-1} ds_{i}. \end{split}$$

The final constant depends on α , p, n, k, N and diam S but not on λ . If $|\alpha| \le m$ and $mp \le k$ then $p - \lambda p|\alpha| + \lambda k > 0$ and so

$$||D^{\alpha}\psi||_{0,p,S}^p \leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{1-p}(p+\lambda k-\lambda p|\alpha|)^{-1}.$$

The expression on the right can be made arbitrarily small for sufficiently large λ provided either p > 1 or m < k. This establishes (iv).

The case of intersecting H_i remains to be considered. Again pick $\delta < 1$ small enough so that $T_i \cap T_j \cap S$ is empty whenever $H_i \cap H_j \cap \overline{S}$ is empty. Define θ_i and ψ as above. The general Leibniz formula states

(7)
$$D^{\alpha}\psi(x) = \sum_{\beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_N = \alpha} {\alpha \choose \beta_1, \cdots, \beta_N} D^{\beta_1}\theta_1(x) \cdots D^{\beta_N}\theta_N(x).$$

For estimates of $|D^{\alpha}\psi(x)|$ we may drop from terms in the Leibniz expression any factor $D^{\beta_i}\theta_i(x)$ for which $\beta_i=0$ because $|\theta_i(x)| \leq 1$. For simplicity consider a term $D^{\beta_1}\theta_1(x)\cdots D^{\beta_N}\theta_N(x)$ where no β_i is zero. Decompose S into the union of N subregions S_j such that in S_j we have $s_j \leq s_i$ for $i \neq j$. We now obtain via Lemma 3 in the manner above, noting that whenever $D^{\beta_i}\theta_i(x) \neq 0$ then $s_i < \delta \leq 1$

$$\int_{S} |D^{\beta_{1}}\theta_{1}(x)\cdots D^{\beta_{N}}\theta_{N}(x)|^{p} dx = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \int_{S_{j}} |D^{\beta_{1}}\theta_{1}(x)\cdots D^{\beta_{N}}\theta_{N}(x)|^{p} dx$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{-Np} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \int_{S_{j}} s_{1}^{p-\lambda p|\beta_{1}|} \cdots s_{N}^{p-\lambda p|\beta_{N}|} dx$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{-Np} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \int_{S_{j}} s_{j}^{Np-\lambda p|\alpha|} dx$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{1-Np} \int_{0}^{1} s^{Np-\lambda p|\alpha|+\lambda k-1} ds$$

$$\leq \operatorname{const} \lambda^{1-Np} (Np+\lambda k-\lambda p|\alpha|)^{-1}.$$

Similar estimates can be found for all terms in (7) and (iv) follows once more by taking λ sufficiently large.

DEFINITION. Let G be an open set in E_n . G is called a regular domain if bdry $G = \bigcup_{k=0}^{n-1} G_k$ where G_k is the union of a locally finite collection of smooth manifolds of dimension k in E_n . A regular domain G whose boundary manifolds are all segments of planes of various dimensions will be called a regular flatly-bounded domain. An unbounded regular domain G is called 0-quasibounded if it is quasi-bounded, i.e. if there exist at most finitely many disjoint congruent balls G in G, having any specified positive radius, which do not intersect the boundary of G. G is called G in G, having any specified positive radius, such that G in G is called G in G, having any specified positive radius, such that G in G is called G in G if dist G in G if dist G in G is called positive radius, such that G is called G in G in G in G in G if dist G in G in

THEOREM 1. Let G be a regular, quasibounded, flatly-bounded domain in E_n . Let k be the smallest integer $(1 \le k \le n)$ for which G is (n-k)-quasibounded. If either $mp \le k$ and p > 1 or m < k and p = 1 then no imbedding of the form

$$W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G)$$

can be compact.

Proof. For $2 \le k \le n$ since G is not (n-k+1)-quasibounded there is a sequence of congruent open balls $\{Q_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ in \overline{G} such that $Q_i \cap \text{bdry } G$ is contained in the union of finitely many (n-k)-planes. If k=1 balls Q_i with this property exist trivially since G is regular and flatly-bounded. Let Q denote any one of these balls and let H_1, \ldots, H_N be the corresponding (n-k)-planes. Let $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}(Q)$ be a function for which

$$\|\varphi\|_{0,r,\Omega} = 2C > 0, \qquad \|\varphi\|_{m,r,\Omega} = K < \infty.$$

There exists a constant M such that for all $x \in E_n$ and for all α with $0 \le |\alpha| \le m$, $|D^{\alpha}\varphi(x)| \le M$. Choose $\delta_0 > 0$ small enough so that the sum of the volumes of the intersections with Q of the (n-k)-tubes $T_{\delta_0}(H_i)$, $i=1,\ldots,N$, does not exceed $(C/M)^r$. Let

$$\varepsilon = K \left[M \sum_{|\alpha| \le m} \sum_{\beta \le \alpha} {\alpha \choose \beta} \right]^{-1}.$$

By Lemma 4 there exists for some $\delta \leq \delta_0$ a function $\psi \in C_0^{\infty}(E_n - \bigcup_{i=1}^N H_i)$ satisfying $0 \leq \psi(x) \leq 1$, $\psi(x) = 1$ outside $\bigcup_{i=1}^N T_{\delta}(H_i)$ and $\|D^{\alpha}\psi\|_{0,p,Q} \leq \varepsilon$ for $0 < |\alpha| \leq m$. Let $\gamma = \varphi \cdot \psi = \varphi - \varphi(1 - \psi)$. Clearly $\gamma \in C_0^{\infty}(Q \cap G)$. Putting $T_i = T_{\delta}(H_i)$ we have

$$\|\gamma\|_{0,r,G} \ge \|\varphi\|_{0,r,Q} - \|\varphi\|_{0,r,Q \cap (T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_N)}$$

$$\ge 2C - M [\text{vol } Q \cap (T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_N)]^{1/r} \ge C.$$

Moreover, for $0 < |\alpha| \le m$

$$D^{\alpha}\gamma = \psi D^{\alpha}\varphi + \sum_{\beta < \alpha} {\alpha \choose \beta} D^{\beta}\varphi D^{\alpha - \beta}\psi,$$

$$\|D^{\alpha}\gamma\|_{0,p,Q} \leq \|D^{\alpha}\varphi\|_{0,p,Q} + \sum_{\beta < \alpha} {\alpha \choose \beta} M\varepsilon \leq 2K.$$

Thus if $K_1^p = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} 1$ we have $||\gamma||_{m,p,G} \leq 2KK_1$.

Now let φ_i , i=1, 2, ... be a translate of φ with support in Q_i and let γ_i be constructed from φ_i as γ from φ above, so that

$$\|\gamma_i\|_{0,r,G} \ge C, \qquad \|\gamma_i\|_{m,p,G} \le 2KK_1.$$

The sequence $\{\gamma_i\}$, though bounded in $W_0^{m,p}(G)$ has no subsequence converging in $L^r(G)$. In fact if $i \neq j$ then $\|\gamma_i - \gamma_j\|_{0,r,G} \ge 2^{1/r_C}$. Thus the imbedding

$$W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{0,r}(G) = L^r(G)$$

if it exists cannot be compact. Neither can the imbedding $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{f,r}(G)$ for if this latter imbedding were compact then so would be the composition

$$W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G) \to L^r(G).$$

3. Flatly-bounded domains—compact imbeddings. Let H be a k-plane in E_n and let $a \in H$. We denote by $T_{\delta,\rho}(H,a)$ the tube segment of radius δ and length 2ρ having axis H and centre a. Thus, if P is the orthogonal projection operator on H then

$$T_{\delta,\rho}(H,a) = \{x \in E_n : \operatorname{dist}(x,H) < \delta, \operatorname{dist}(Px,a) < \rho\}.$$

LEMMA 5. Let H be an (n-k)-plane in E_n $(1 \le k \le n)$ and let $a \in H$. If either p > k or p = k = 1 then there exists a constant depending only on p and k such that for each δ , $\rho > 0$

$$\|\gamma\|_{0,p,T} \leq \operatorname{const} \delta |\gamma|_{1,p,T}$$

for all $\gamma \in C_0^{\infty}(E_n - H \cap T)$ where $T = T_{\delta, o}(H, a)$.

Proof. First consider the case p > k. Let (r, σ, z') denote cylindrical polar coordinates in E_n with origin at a and cylindrical axis H. By Hölder's inequality for $(r, \sigma, z') \in T$

$$\begin{aligned} |\gamma(r,\sigma,z')|^{p} r^{k-1} &\leq \delta^{k-1} \bigg| \int_{0}^{r} \frac{d}{dt} \gamma(t,\sigma,z') dt \bigg|^{p} \\ &\leq \delta^{k-1} \int_{0}^{\delta} |D_{t} \gamma(t,\sigma,z')|^{p} t^{k-1} dt \bigg\{ \int_{0}^{\delta} t^{-(k-1)/(p-1)} dt \bigg\}^{p-1} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{p-1}{p-k} \right)^{p-1} \delta^{p-1} \int_{0}^{\delta} |D_{t} \gamma(t,\sigma,z')|^{p} t^{k-1} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating over Σ and Z the domains of the variables σ and z' respectively in T we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\gamma\|_{0,p,T}^{p} &= \int_{\Sigma} d\sigma \int_{Z} dz' \int_{0}^{\delta} |\gamma(r,\sigma,z')|^{p} r^{k-1} dr \\ &\leq \left(\frac{p-1}{p-k}\right)^{p-1} \delta^{p-1} \int_{0}^{\delta} dr \int_{\Sigma} d\sigma \int_{Z} dz' \int_{0}^{\delta} |D_{t}\gamma(t,\sigma,z')|^{p} t^{k-1} dt \\ &\leq \text{const } \delta^{p} |\gamma|_{1,p,T}^{p}. \end{aligned}$$

For the special case p=k=1 we have

$$|\gamma(x)| = |\gamma(r, z')| \le \int_0^{\delta} |D_t \gamma(t, z')| dt,$$

$$\|\gamma\|_{0,1,T} \le \int_{Z} dz' \int_0^{\delta} dr \int_0^{\delta} |D_t \gamma(t, z')| dt \le \delta |\gamma|_{1,1,T}.$$

COROLLARY. Under the conditions of the lemma, if $1 \le q \le p$ then there exists a constant depending only on p, q, k, n such that for all $\delta > 0$

$$\|\gamma\|_{0,q,T} \leq \operatorname{const} \delta^{1+n/q-n/p} |\gamma|_{1,p,T}$$

for all $\gamma \in C_0^{\infty}(E_n - H \cap T)$ where $T = T_{\delta,\delta}(H, a)$.

Proof. By Hölder's inequality and since vol $T = \text{const } \delta^n$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\gamma\|_{0,q,T} & \leq \|\gamma\|_{0,p,T} [\text{vol } T]^{1/q-1/p} \\ & \leq \text{const } \delta^{1+n/q-n/p} |\gamma|_{1,p,T}. \end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION. Let G be an unbounded, regular, flatly-bounded domain in E_n . We shall say that G has the k-tube property if for every sufficiently large positive number R there exists a positive number $\delta = \delta(R)$ with the properties:

- (i) $\delta(R) \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$,
- (ii) for each $x \in G_R = \{y \in G : |y| > R\}$ there exists a k-plane H and a point $a \in H$ such that $x \in T_{\delta,\delta}(H, a)$ and $H \cap T_{2\delta,2\delta}(H, a) \subset \text{bdry } G$.

It is clear that if G has the k-tube property then G is k-quasibounded. Of course the converse is not true as the planar segments comprising the boundary of G may have too many gaps to satisfy condition (ii). For domains G whose boundaries consist only of whole planes the k-tube property is equivalent to k-quasibounded-

ness. Other examples of domains with the k-tube property are not difficult to construct—for example Clark's "spiny urchin" [7] has the 1-tube property in E₂.

LEMMA 6 (A VARIANT ON POINCARÉ'S INEQUALITY). Let G be an unbounded, regular, flatly-bounded domain in E_n having the (n-k)-tube property for some k $(1 \le k \le n)$. If $1 \le r \le p$ where either p > k or p = k = 1 then there exists a constant depending only on n, k, p and r such that for all $u \in W_0^{1,p}(G)$ and all sufficiently large R

$$||u||_{0,r,G_R} \le \text{const } [\delta(R)]^{1+n/r-n/p} |u|_{1,p,G}.$$

Proof. Fix R large enough so that $\delta = \delta(R)$ exists. If α is an n-tuple of integers (not necessarily nonnegative) let $Q_{\alpha} = \{x \in E_n : \alpha_i n^{-1/2} \delta \le x_i \le (\alpha_i + 1) n^{-1/2} \delta\}$. Then $E_n = \bigcup_{\alpha} Q_{\alpha}$. If $x \in G_R$ then $x \in Q_{\alpha}$ for some α and there exists an (n-k)-plane H and a point $a \in H$ such that $x \in T_{\delta,\delta}(H,a) = T$ and $H \cap T' \subset \text{bdry } G$ where $T' = T_{2\delta,2\delta}(H,a)$. Clearly $Q_{\alpha} \subset T'$. For any $\gamma \in C_0^{\infty}(G)$ since γ vanishes near $H \cap T'$ we have by the corollary of Lemma 5

$$\begin{aligned} \|\gamma\|_{0,r,Q_{\alpha}\cap G_{R}} &\leq \|\gamma\|_{0,r,T'} \\ &\leq \operatorname{const} (2\delta)^{1+n/r-n/p} |\gamma|_{1,p,T'} \\ &\leq \operatorname{const} \delta^{1+n/r-n/p} |\gamma|_{1,p,Q_{\alpha}'} \end{aligned}$$

where Q'_{α} is the union of all the cubes Q_{β} which intersect T'. There is a number N depending only on n such that any N+1 of the sets Q'_{α} have empty intersection. Summing the above inequality over all α for which Q_{α} meets G_{R} we obtain

$$\|\gamma\|_{0,r,G_R} \le \operatorname{const} N \cdot \delta^{1+n/r-n/p} |\gamma|_{1,p,G}$$

and this inequality extends by completion from $C_0^{\infty}(G)$ to $W_0^{1,p}(G)$.

THEOREM 2. Let G be an unbounded, regular, flatly-bounded domain in E_n having the (n-k)-tube property $(1 \le k \le n)$. If either p > k or p = k = 1 then the imbedding $W_0^{m+1,p}(G) \to W_0^{m,r}(G)$ (exists and) is compact for $m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ and $1 \le r < \infty$ if $p \ge n$ or for $1 \le r < np(n-p)^{-1}$ if p < n.

Proof. First consider the case $1 \le r \le p$, m=0. To prove that the imbedding $W_0^{1,p}(G) \to L^r(G)$ is compact we use the following compactness criterion for sets in $L^r(G)$: a sequence $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ which is bounded in $L^r(G)$ is precompact in $L^r(G)$ provided

- (a) for every bounded $G' \subseteq G$ the sequence $\{u_i | G'\}$ is precompact in $L^r(G')$, and
- (b) for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists R > 0 such that for all i, $||u_i||_{0,r,G_R} < \varepsilon$.

Lemma 6 and condition (i) of the (n-k)-tube property assures us that (b) is satisfied for any sequence $\{u_i\}$ bounded in $W_0^{1,p}(G)$. To establish (a) let G' be a bounded subset of G. Then for some R, $G' \subset K_R = \{x \in E_n : |x| \le R\}$. Let $W^{1,p}(G,R)$ denote the completion with respect to the norm $\|\cdot\|_{1,p,G\cap K_R}$ of the space $C_0^{\infty}(G)$. The imbedding $W^{1,p}(K_R) \to L^r(K_R)$ is known to be compact (Kondrašov's Theorem) and since an element of $W^{1,p}(G,R)$ can be extended to be zero outside its support so as to belong to $W^{1,p}(K_R)$ it follows that $W^{1,p}(G,R)$ is compactly imbedded in

 $L^r(G \cap K_R)$. But $\{u_i|K_R\}$ is bounded in $W^{1,p}(G,R)$ and hence precompact in $L^r(G \cap K_R)$ whence $\{u_i|G'\}$ is precompact in $L^r(G')$ as required.

By Sobolev's Imbedding Theorem $W_0^{1,p}(G)$ is continuously imbedded in $L^q(G)$ for any q satisfying $p \le q < \infty$ if $p \ge n$ or $p \le q \le np(n-p)^{-1}$ if p < n. Select such a q and a sequence $\{u_i\}$ bounded in $W_0^{1,p}(G)$ so that, say, $\|u_i\|_{0,q,G} \le C$. We may assume, passing to a subsequence if necessary, that $\{u_i\}$ converges in $L^p(G)$. By Hölder's Inequality if $p \le r < q$

$$||u_{i}-u_{j}||_{0,r,G} \leq ||u_{i}-u_{j}||_{0,p,G}^{\lambda}||u_{i}-u_{j}||_{0,q,G}^{1-\lambda}|$$

$$\leq (2C)^{1-\lambda}||u_{i}-u_{j}||_{0,p,G}^{\lambda}|$$

where $\lambda = p(q-r)r^{-1}(q-p)^{-1} > 0$. Hence $\{u_i\}$ converges in $L^r(G)$ and so the imbedding $W_0^{1,p}(G) \to L^r(G)$ is compact for $1 \le r < \infty$ if $p \ge n$ and for $1 \le r < np(n-p)^{-1}$ if p < n.

Finally, if $\{u_i\}$ is bounded in $W_0^{m+1,p}(G)$ then for any α with $0 \le |\alpha| \le m$, $\{D^\alpha u_i\}$ is bounded in $W_0^{1,p}(G)$ and so has a subsequence convergent to an element v_α of $L^r(G)$. In particular (for a suitable subsequence) $u_i \to v_0$ in $L^r(G)$ and so in the sense of distributions. Since $D^\alpha u_i \to v_\alpha$ in $L^r(G)$ and $D^\alpha u_i \to D^\alpha v_0$ in the sense of distributions it follows that $v_\alpha = D^\alpha v_0$ and $u_i \to v_0$ in $W_0^{m,r}(G)$. This completes the proof.

This theorem affords for imbeddings of the sort $W_0^{1,p}(G) \to L^r(G)$ on domains G for which (n-k)-quasiboundedness is equivalent to the (n-k)-tube property, a complete converse to Theorem 1. For imbeddings $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to L^r(G)$, $m \ge 2$, we do not fare quite so well.

THEOREM 3. Let G be an unbounded, regular, flatly-bounded domain in E_n having the (n-k)-tube property $(1 \le k \le n)$. Then the imbedding

$$W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G), \qquad 0 \le j < m,$$

is compact in any of the following cases:

- (i) m = p = k = 1,
- (ii) mp > n + p np/k, $p \le r < p^*$,
- (iii) mp > n + (j+1)p np/k, $1 \le r < p^*$,

where $p^* = np(n - mp + jp)^{-1}$ if n > mp - jp and $p^* = \infty$ if $n \le mp - jp$.

Proof. The case m=1 has already been proved. If $m \ge 2$ the imbedding $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{1,q}(G)$ is continuous for $p \le q \le np(n-mp+p)^{-1}$ if n > mp-p and $p \le r < \infty$ if $n \le mp-p$. By Theorem 2 the imbedding $W_0^{1,q}(G) \to L^p(G)$ is compact provided q > k. Since mp > n+p-np/k is equivalent to $np(n-mp+p)^{-1} > k$ such q > k can always be chosen and so the composed imbedding $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to L^p(G)$ is compact.

By a standard interpolation theorem for Sobolev spaces [5, Lemma 6] there exists a constant K such that for $0 \le j < m$, $p \le q < p^*$ we have

$$||u||_{t,r,G} \leq K||u||_{m,p,G}^{\lambda}||u||_{0,p,G}^{1-\lambda}$$

for all $u \in W_0^{m,p}(G)$ where $\lambda = (nr + jrp - np)(mrp)^{-1}$. Note that $0 \le \lambda < 1$ for all relevant values of j, m, n, r and p. If $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ is a bounded sequence in $W_0^{m,p}(G)$ then it has a subsequence again denoted $\{u_i\}$ which is convergent in $L^p(G)$. Since

$$||u_{i}-u_{k}||_{j,r,G} \leq K||u_{i}-u_{k}||_{m,p,G}^{\lambda}||u_{i}-u_{k}||_{0,p,G}^{1-\lambda}$$

$$\leq K[2 \sup ||u_{i}||_{m,p,G}]^{\lambda}||u_{i}-u_{k}||_{0,p,G}^{1-\lambda},$$

it follows that $\{u_i\}$ is a Cauchy sequence and hence convergent in $W_0^{i,r}(G)$ proving case (ii).

If mp > n + (j+1)p - np/k (and in particular if j=0 in case (ii)) we have by Sobolev's theorem and Theorem 2

$$W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j+1,np(n-mp+jp+p)^{-1}}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G)$$

the second imbedding being compact since $np(n-mp+jp+p)^{-1} > k$.

REMARK. The condition mp > n + p - np/k implies mp > k. The converse is, however, true for $m \ge 2$ only if k = n or $k \le p$. Thus even for domains G for which (n-k)-quasiboundedness is equivalent to the (n-k)-tube property imbeddings of $W_0^{m,p}(G)$ corresponding to the cases $1 and <math>1 = p < k \le m \le n + 1 - n/k$ fail to be covered either by Theorem 1 or Theorem 3.

4. Extensions to nonflatly-bounded domains. Let G, G' be open sets in E_n . A one-to-one transformation M from G onto G' is called an m-diffeomorphism of modulus C if all the components of M and M^{-1} have continuous partial derivatives of all orders up to and including m, and these partials do not exceed C in modulus.

LEMMA 7. Let G, G' be open in E_n and let M be an m-diffeomorphism of modulus C from G onto G'. Let

$$Au(v) = u(M^{-1}v), \quad v \in G'.$$

Then A is a homeomorphism from $W^{m,p}(G)$ [respectively $W_0^{m,p}(G)$] onto $W^{m,p}(G')$ [resp. $W_0^{m,p}(G')$] and there exist constants C_1 and C_2 depending only on n, p and C and not on G or G' such that for all $u \in W^{m,p}(G)$

$$C_1 \|u\|_{m,v,G} \leq \|Au\|_{m,v,G'} \leq C_2 \|u\|_{m,v,G}.$$

Proof. A is a homeomorphism from $L^p(G)$ onto $L^p(G')$ for if $\partial M/\partial x$ represents the Jacobian determinant of M then

$$\left\{ \sup_{y \in G'} \left| \frac{\partial M^{-1}(y)}{\partial y} \right|^{1/p} \right\}^{-1} \|u\|_{0,p,G} \leq \|Au\|_{0,p,G'} \\
\leq \sup_{x \in G} \left| \frac{\partial M(x)}{\partial x} \right|^{1/p} \|u\|_{0,p,G}.$$

By induction and formal applications of the chain rule it is easily verified that in the sense of distributions on G'

$$D^{\alpha}(Au) = \sum_{|\beta| \leq |\alpha|} M_{\alpha\beta} A(D^{\beta}u)$$

where $M_{\alpha\beta}$ is a polynomial of degree $|\beta|$ in the derivatives of the components of M^{-1} involving derivatives of orders not exceeding $|\alpha|$. It follows that

$$||Au||_{m,p,C'}^p = \sum_{|\alpha| \le m} \left\| \sum_{|\beta| \le |\alpha|} M_{\alpha\beta} A(D^{\beta}u) \right\|_{0,p,G'}^p$$

$$\le \operatorname{const} \sum_{|\beta| \le m} ||A(D^{\beta}u)||_{0,p,G'}^p$$

$$\le \operatorname{const} ||u||_{m,p,G}^p.$$

The reverse inequality follows in a similar manner.

LEMMA 8. Under the hypotheses of Lemma 7 $W^{m,p}(G)$ is compactly imbedded in $W^{j,r}(G)$ if and only if $W^{m,p}(G')$ is compactly imbedded in $W^{j,r}(G')$. A similar statement holds for the spaces $W_0^{m,p}(G)$.

Proof. Suppose the imbedding $W^{m,p}(G) \to W^{j,r}(G)$ is compact. Let $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ be a bounded sequence in $W^{m,p}(G')$. Then $\{A^{-1}u_i\}$ is bounded in $W^{m,p}(G)$ and so has a subsequence converging in $W^{j,r}(G)$. The corresponding subsequence of $\{u_i\}$ is convergent in $W^{j,r}(G')$ whence the imbedding $W^{m,p}(G') \to W^{j,r}(G')$ is compact. The other cases are proved similarly.

Of course Lemma 8 can be used to obtain immediately the conclusions of Theorems 1-3 for any domain G which is m-diffeomorphic to an unbounded, regular, flatly-bounded domain G' satisfying the conditions of the particular theorem. As most quasibounded domains do not have this property we obtain generalizations of these theorems with localized hypotheses.

THEOREM 4. Let G be a regular, unbounded domain in E_n . Let k be the largest integer $(1 \le k \le n)$ for which for some constant C there exist infinitely many mutually disjoint open sets U in \overline{G} each of which is m-diffeomorphic with modulus not greater than C to the unit ball B in E_n in such a way that $U \cap \text{bdry } G$ is mapped into a subset of the union of finitely many (n-k)-planes. (In particular G is not (n-k+1)-quasi-bounded.) If either $mp \le k$, p > 1 or m < k, p = 1 then no imbedding of the form $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{l,r}(G)$ can be compact.

Proof. Let $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of mutually disjoint open sets in \overline{G} for which there correspond m-diffeomorphisms $M_i \colon U_i \to B$ having modulus $\subseteq C$ and such that $M_i(U_i \cap \text{bdry } G) \subseteq B \cap P_i$ where P_i is the union of finitely many (n-k)-planes. Let $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}(B)$ be such that

$$\|\varphi\|_{0,r,B} = C_1 > 0, \qquad \|\varphi\|_{m,r,B} = K_1 < \infty.$$

By the method used in the proof of Theorem 1 we can construct functions $\gamma_i \in C_0^{\infty}(B-P_i)$ such that

$$\|\gamma_i\|_{0,r,B} \ge C_2 > 0, \qquad \|\gamma_i\|_{m,p,B} \le K_2 < \infty,$$

the constants C_2 and K_2 being independent of i. Denoting by A_i the operator for

which $A_i u(y) = u(M_i^{-1}y)$, $y \in B$ we have by Lemma 7 that there exist constants C_3 and K_3 again independent of i such that

$$||A_i^{-1}\gamma_i||_{0,r,G} \ge C_3 > 0, \qquad ||A_i^{-1}\gamma_i||_{m,p,G} \le K_3 < \infty$$

and

$$A_i^{-1}\gamma_i \in C_0^{\infty}(U_i \cap G).$$

The noncompactness of the imbedding $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{r,r}(G)$ now follows as in Theorem 1.

As an analog of the compactness Theorems 2 and 3 we have

THEOREM 5. Let G be an unbounded open set in E_n with the property that there exist constants C, R_0 and K such that for each $R \ge R_0$ there exist positive numbers d(R) and $\delta(R)$ with the following properties:

- (i) $d(R) + \delta(R) \rightarrow 0$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$,
- (ii) $d(R)/\delta(R) \leq K$, $R \geq R_0$,
- (iii) for each $x \in G_R = \{x \in G : |x| > R\}$ the ball $B_\delta(x)$ of radius $\delta(R)$ and center x can be mapped by a 1-diffeomorphism M of modulus $\leq C$ onto a set S in E_n such that for some (n-k)-plane H $(1 \leq k \leq n)$ and some point $a \in H$ we have $S \subset T_{d(R),d(R)}(H,a)$ and $H \cap T_{d(R),d(R)}(H,a) \subset M(\text{bdry } G \cap B_\delta(x))$.

Then the imbedding $W_0^{m,p}(G) \to W_0^{j,r}(G)$, $0 \le j < m$ is compact in any of the following cases:

- (a) m=p=k=1,
- (b) mp > n + p np/k, $p \le r < p^*$,
- (c) mp > n + (j+1)p np/k, $1 \le r < p^*$,

where $p^* = np(n - mp + jp)^{-1}$ if n > mp - jp and $p^* = \infty$ if $n \le mp - jp$.

Proof. The conclusion is the same as that of Theorem 3 and the proof is identical if we reprove Lemma 6 (Poincaré's inequality) under the conditions of this theorem. Thus, let p > k or p = k = 1 and let $1 \le r \le p$. Fix $R \ge R_0$ and let d = d(R) and $\delta = \delta(R)$. Define the cubes Q_{α} as in the proof of Lemma 6. If $x \in G_R$ then for some α , $x \in Q_{\alpha} \subset B_{\delta}(x)$. There exists a 1-diffeomorphism M of $B = B_{\delta}(x)$ onto $S \subset E_n$ having modulus $\subseteq C$ and there exists an (n-k)-plane H and a point $a \in H$ such that $S \subset T = T_{d,d}(H,a)$ and $H \cap T \subset M(B \cap \text{bdry } G)$. For any $\gamma \in C_0^{\infty}(G)$ we have that $A\gamma$ (defined by $A\gamma(y) = \gamma(M^{-1}y)$, $y \in S$) vanishes near $H \cap T$. Thus by the corollary of Lemma 5, Lemma 7 and the fact that $d \subseteq K\delta$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\gamma\|_{0,r,Q_{\alpha}\cap G_{R}} &\leq \|\gamma\|_{0,r,B} \leq \text{const } \|A\gamma\|_{0,r,S} \\ &\leq \text{const } d^{1+n/r-n/p} \|A\gamma\|_{1,p,T} \\ &\leq \text{const } \delta^{1+n/r-n/p} \|\gamma\|_{1,p,M^{-1}(T)} \\ &\leq \text{const } \delta^{1+n/r-n/p} \|\gamma\|_{1,p,Q_{\alpha}'} \end{aligned}$$

where Q'_{α} is the union of all the cubes Q_{β} which intersect $M^{-1}(T)$. Since the modulus of M is bounded, M^{-1} is Lipschitzian and there exists a constant λ such that $M^{-1}(T) \subseteq B_{\lambda\alpha}(x) \subseteq B_{\lambda K\beta}(x)$. Thus there is a constant N independent of R and x

such that any N+1 of the sets Q'_{α} have empty intersection. Summing the above inequality over those α for which Q_{α} meets G_{R} we obtain, as in Lemma 6, the required form of Poincaré's inequality.

5. An application to differential operators. Let L be a linear partial differential operator of order 2m in G given by

$$Lu(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \le 2m} a_{\alpha}(x) D^{\alpha} u(x)$$

with coefficients a_{α} infinitely differentiable, bounded, complex functions on G. Suppose L is such that it satisfies the boundedness condition

$$\left| \int_{G} L\varphi(x)\overline{\psi(x)} \, dx \right| \leq c_0 \|\varphi\|_{m,2,G} \|\psi\|_{m,2,G}$$

for all φ , $\psi \in C_0^{\infty}(G)$, and also Garding's inequality

$$\operatorname{Re} \int_{G} L\varphi(x)\overline{\varphi(x)} \, dx \ge c_{1} \|\varphi\|_{m,2,G}^{2} - c_{2} \|\varphi\|_{0,2,G}^{2}$$

for all $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}(G)$, where c_0 , $c_1 > 0$ and c_2 are constants. The realization of L in $L^2(G)$ corresponding to null Dirichlet boundary data is an operator T in $L^2(G)$ defined by

Dom
$$(T) = W_0^{m,2}(G) \cap \{ f \in L^2(G) : Lf \in L^2(G) \}$$

 $Tf = Lf, \quad f \in \text{Dom } (T).$

THEOREM 6. If G is open in E_n and satisfies the conditions of either Theorem 3 or Theorem 5 with 2m > n+2-2n/k then T as defined above is a closed linear operator in $L^2(G)$; the spectrum $\sigma(T)$ is discrete and has no finite limit points; for $\lambda \notin \sigma(T)$ the resolvent operator $R_{\lambda}(T) = (\lambda I - T)^{-1}$ is completely continuous.

The proof is identical to that of the standard theorem of this type. A sketch can be found in [6].

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