

GRAND SOBOLEV SPACES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS TO VARIATIONAL PROBLEMS

CARLO SBORDONE

Dedicated to Professor Francesco Guglielmino on his 70th birthday

For $q > 1$, Ω a bounded open set in \mathbb{R}^n , the grand Sobolev space $W_0^{1,q}(\Omega)$ consists of all functions $u \in \bigcap_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} W_0^{1,q-\varepsilon}(\Omega)$ such that

$$(1.1) \quad \|u\|_{W_0^{1,q}} = \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} \left[\frac{\varepsilon}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^{q-\varepsilon} dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q-\varepsilon}} < \infty.$$

This space, slightly larger than $W_0^{1,q}(\Omega)$, was introduced in [16] in connection with regularity properties of the Jacobians.

For $q = n$ in [9] imbedding theorems of Sobolev type were proved for functions $u \in W_0^{1,n}(\Omega)$.

Here we report on recent use of grand Sobolev spaces to solve variational problems [14], [18].

1. The grand Sobolev space $W^{1,q}$.

Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^n , $n \geq 2$. For $q > 1$ let us introduce a space slightly larger than $L^q(\Omega)$.

The grand L^q -space, denoted by $L^{(q)} = L^{(q)}(\Omega)$ consists of functions $h \in \bigcap_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} L^{q-\varepsilon}(\Omega)$ such that

$$(1.1) \quad \|h\|_{(q)} = \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} \left[\varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |h|^{q-\varepsilon} dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q-\varepsilon}} < \infty$$

where \int_{Ω} denotes the integral mean over Ω .

Note that $\|\cdot\|_{(q)}$ is a norm and $L^{(q)}(\Omega)$ is a Banach space.

This space was introduced in [16] in connection with regularity properties of the Jacobians, see also [11].

The Marcinkiewicz space $L^{q,\infty}(\Omega) = \text{weak-}L^q(\Omega)$ and the Zygmund space $L^q \log^{-\alpha} L(\Omega)$, $\alpha \geq 0$, are defined according to the norms

$$(1.2) \quad \|h\|_{L^{q,\infty}} = \sup_{E \subset \Omega} |E|^{\frac{1}{q}} \int_E |h| dx$$

$$(1.3) \quad \|h\|_{L^q \log^{-\alpha} L} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{h}{\lambda} \right|^q \log^{-\alpha} \left(e + \left| \frac{h}{\lambda} \right| \right) dx < 1 \right\}.$$

The inclusions with grand L^q -space

$$L^q \subset L^{q,\infty} \subset L^{(q)}$$

$$L^q \subset L^q \log^{-1} L \subset L^{(q)} \subset \bigcap_{\alpha > 1} L^q \log^{-\alpha} L$$

hold (see [11]).

L^∞ is not dense in $L^{q,\infty}$ nor in $L^{(q)}$. In [2] the following formulas for the distance to L^∞ in these space were proved:

$$(1.4) \quad \text{dist}_{L^{q,\infty}}(h, L^\infty) = \limsup_{|E| \rightarrow 0} |E|^{\frac{1}{q}} \int_E |h| dx$$

$$(1.5) \quad \text{dist}_{L^{(q)}}(h, L^\infty) = \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |h|^{q-\varepsilon} dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q-\varepsilon}}.$$

We shall indicate by $L_0^{(q)}$ the closure of L^∞ .
 The grand Sobolev space $W^{1,(q)}(\Omega)$ consists of all functions

$$u \in \bigcap_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} W^{1,q-\varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

such that $\nabla u \in L^q(\Omega)$, equipped with the norm

$$\|u\|_{W^{1,q}} = \|\nabla u\|_{L^q} + \|u\|_{L^q}.$$

We shall also consider the space $W_0^{1,(q)}(\Omega)$ which consists of all functions u belonging to $\bigcap_{0 < \varepsilon \leq q-1} W_0^{1,q-\varepsilon}(\Omega)$ such that the norm

$$\|u\|_{W_0^{1,q}} = \|\nabla u\|_{L^q}$$

is finite.

In the case $q = n$ an imbedding theorem of Sobolev-Trudinger type was established in [9] (see also [5],[6])

Theorem 1.1. *There exist $c_1 = c_1(n)$, $c_2 = c_2(n)$ such that for $u \in W_0^{1,n}(\Omega)$*

$$\int_{\Omega} \exp\left(\frac{|u|}{c_1 |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{n}} \cdot \|u\|_{W_0^{1,n}}}\right) dx \leq c_2,$$

This means that $W_0^{1,n}$ is imbedded in the Orlicz space EXP_α ($\alpha = 1$) which is defined according to the norm

$$\|f\|_{\text{EXP}_\alpha} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_{\Omega} \exp\left|\frac{f}{\lambda}\right|^\alpha dx \leq 2 \right\}.$$

It is well known that L^∞ is not dense into EXP_α . In [9] the following formulas for the distance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dist}_{\text{EXP}_\alpha}(f, L^\infty) &= \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_{\Omega} \exp\left|\frac{f}{\lambda}\right|^\alpha dx < \infty \right\} \\ &= e \cdot \limsup_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{q} \left(\int_{\Omega} |f|^{\alpha q} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \end{aligned}$$

were established. Moreover it is easy to check that, denoting with \exp_α the closure of L^∞ in EXP_α ,

$$\begin{aligned}(\exp_\alpha)^* &= L \log^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} L \\ (L \log^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} L)^* &= \text{EXP}_\alpha.\end{aligned}$$

Let us compare Theorem 1.1 with well known imbedding for the Sobolev space $W_0^{1,n}$

$$(1.6) \quad W_0^{1,n} \subset VMO$$

where VMO is the class of functions $u \in L^1(\Omega)$ with vanishing mean oscillation, i.e.

$$(1.7) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_r(x)} |u - u_{B_r}| dy = 0$$

uniformly with respect to x , $B_r = B_r(x)$ the ball with radius r , centered at x , $u_{B_r} = \int_{B_r} u$.

Formula (1.7) follows from Poincaré inequality and Jensen inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}(1.8) \quad \int_{B_r} |u - u_{B_r}| dy &\leq c \cdot r \int_{B_r} |\nabla u| dy \leq \\ &\leq c \cdot r \left[\int_{B_r} |\nabla u|^n dy \right]^{\frac{1}{n}} = c' \int_{B_r} |\nabla u|^n dy.\end{aligned}$$

If $u \in W_0^{1,1}$ and we assume only $|\nabla u| \in L^{n,\infty}$, then u belongs to BMO but not necessarily to VMO .

Taking into account (1.4), (1.8) in [2] it is proved that if $u \in W_0^{1,1}$ and $|Du| \in L_0^n$ then $u \in \exp$, i.e.

$$\int_{\Omega} \exp\left(\frac{|u|}{\lambda}\right) dx < \infty \quad \text{for any } \lambda > 0.$$

Finally let us mention that in [7], [15] there are examples of functions $u \in W_0^{1,1}$ and such that $|\nabla u| \in L_0^n$ and $u \notin BMO$.

2. Jacobian of $W^{1,n}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ mappings.

Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n and let $f = (f^{(1)}, \dots, f^{(n)}) : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a mapping whose distributional differential $Df : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a locally integrable function on Ω with values in the space $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ of all $n \times n$ matrices. The Jacobian determinant

$$J = J(x, f) = \det Df(x)$$

is point-wise defined a.e. in Ω .

When studying the integrability properties of the jacobian, the *natural* assumption for the integrability of Df is $|Df| \in L^n(\Omega)$, as it obviously implies that $J \in L^1(\Omega)$ from the Hadamard's inequality

$$|J(x, f)| \leq |Df(x)|^n.$$

In case J is non negative (f an orientation preserving map), in [16] we have relaxed the natural assumptions on Df to ensure local integrability of the jacobian, proving that

$$|Df| \in L^n(\Omega) \Rightarrow J \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega).$$

The main steps for the proof are the following Proposition 2.1 without any assumption on the sign of J and its local versions in which J is assumed non negative. For $h \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, let us indicate by Mh the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function

$$Mh(x) = \sup_{Q \ni x} \int_Q |h| dy$$

the supremum being taken over all subcubes of Ω containing the given point $x \in \Omega$.

Proposition 2.1. *Let $-\infty < \varepsilon \leq 1$ and $f \in W^{1,n-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$. Then*

$$(2.1) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (M|Df|)^{-\varepsilon} J(x, f) dx \leq c(n)|\varepsilon| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df(x)|^{n-\varepsilon} dx.$$

A new proof of such estimate was recently given by L. Greco [12], relying on the following result of Acerbi-Fusco

Lemma 2.1. *For $u \in W^{1,1}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and any $t > 0$ there exists $g_t \in \text{Lip}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $g_t(x) = u(x)$ for a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $M|\nabla u|(x) \leq t$ and $\|\nabla g_t\|_{L^\infty} \leq c(n)t$.*

Let us sketch the proof from [12].

Proof of (2.1). Fix $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, $f = (f^{(1)}, \dots, f^{(n)}) \in W^{1, n-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$ and apply Lemma 2.1 with $u = f^{(1)}$, which gives $g = g_t \in W^{1, n-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \text{Lip}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. By Stokes theorem $\det D(g, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(n)})$ has zero integral over \mathbb{R}^n

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \det D(g, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(n)}) dx = 0$$

and so we can split for $t > 0$, as

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{M \leq t} J dx = - \int_{M > t} \det DG dx$$

where $J = J(f, x)$, $G = (g, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(n)})$ and $M = M(x)$ stands for the maximal function of $|Df|$, that is here $M = M|Df|$.

Using the estimate on g given by Lemma 1, we easily deduce from (2.2)

$$(2.3) \quad \int_{M \leq t} J dx \leq c(n)t \int_{M > t} |Df|^{n-1} dx$$

for any $t > 0$.

Let us multiply both sides of (2.3) by $t^{-\varepsilon-1}$ and integrate over $(0, \infty)$ with respect to t ; by Fubini we get

$$(2.4) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} M^{-\varepsilon} J dx \leq c(n) \frac{\varepsilon}{1-\varepsilon} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} M^{1-\varepsilon} |Df|^{n-1} dx.$$

The right hand side can be estimated by mean of Hölder inequality and the maximal theorem:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (Mh)^{n-\varepsilon} dx \leq c_1(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h^{n-\varepsilon} dx \quad \varepsilon \text{ small}$$

as follows

$$(2.5) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} M^{1-\varepsilon} |Df|^{n-1} dx \leq \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} M^{n-\varepsilon} dx \right)^{\frac{1-\varepsilon}{n-\varepsilon}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-\varepsilon} dx \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n-\varepsilon}} \\ \leq c_2(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-\varepsilon} dx.$$

We immediately deduce (2.1) from (2.4) and (2.5).

Remark 1. By Young and Hadamard inequalities we deduce

$$|Df|^{-\varepsilon} J \leq (1 - \varepsilon)(M|Df|)^{-\varepsilon} J + \varepsilon(M|Df|)^{1-\varepsilon} |Df|^{n-1}.$$

So by (2.3) and (2.4) we derive the sharper inequality

$$(2.6) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{-\varepsilon} J \, dx \leq c(n)\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-\varepsilon} \, dx$$

whose essence is the presence of factor ε in the right hand side.

Using (2.6) we deduce as in [16] the following

Theorem 2.1. *Let $f : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be an orientation preserving map such that $|Df| \in L^n(\Omega)$, then $J \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ and*

$$\int_B J \, dx \leq c(n) \|\nabla f\|_{L^n(2B)}$$

for $B \subset 2B \subset \Omega$ concentric balls.

In [11] the following inequality for mappings $f \in C^\infty_0(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$

$$(2.7) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (J(x, f)) \log |Df(x)| \, dx \leq c(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df(x)|^n \, dx$$

was proved.

We wish to give here a simple proof of (2.7) by mean of previous method.

Proposition 2.2. *For $f \in C^\infty_0(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$ we have*

$$(2.8) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (J(x, f)) \log MDf(x) \, dx \leq c(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df(x)|^n \, dx .$$

Proof. Like in the proof of Proposition 2.1, let us start with the identity

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \det D(g, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(n)}) \, dx = 0$$

and split it for $t > 0$:

$$-\int_{M \leq t} J \, dx = \int_{M > t} \det DG \, dx \leq c(n)t \int_{M > t} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx$$

where $M = M|Df|$, $G = (g, f^{(2)}, \dots, f^{(n)})$. So we have

$$(2.9) \quad -\frac{1}{t} \int_{M \leq t} J \, dx \leq c(n) \int_{M > t} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |J| \, dx \int_M^{\|Df\|_\infty} \frac{dt}{t} &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx \int_M^{\|Df\|_\infty} \frac{|Df|}{M} \, dt \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx \cdot \|Df\|_\infty < \infty \end{aligned}$$

we can integrate (2.9) on $(0, \|Df\|_\infty)$ and apply Fubini, obtaining

$$(2.10) \quad -\int_0^{\|Df\|_\infty} \frac{1}{t} \, dt \int_{M \leq t} J \, dx = -\int_{M \leq \|Df\|_\infty} J \, dx \int_M^{\|Df\|_\infty} \frac{dt}{t} = \\ = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J(\log M - \log \|Df\|_\infty) \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J \log M \, dx.$$

On the other hand

$$(2.11) \quad \int_0^{\|Df\|_\infty} dt \int_{M > t} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-1} \, dx \int_0^{M \wedge \|Df\|_\infty} dt = \\ = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^{n-1} M \, dx \leq c'(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Df|^n \, dx$$

by Hölder inequality and the maximal theorem.

Inequalities (2.10) and (2.11) imply (2.8).

To obtain (2.7) we decompose the left hand side

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J \log |Df| \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J \log M |Df| \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J \log \frac{|Df|}{M |Df|} \, dx$$

and observe that the last integral is obviously convergent.

Note that we are not using that J belongs to the Hardy space \mathcal{H}^1 as it is proved by [4], nor that $\log M |Df|$ belongs to BMO as it is proved by [3].

3. Elliptic equations with right hand side in divergence form.

Let us consider the operator

$$(3.1) \quad Lu = \operatorname{div} \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u)$$

in a regular domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, where the mapping $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(x, \xi) : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ verifies the “almost linear” conditions:

$$(3.2) \quad |\mathcal{A}(x, \xi) - \mathcal{A}(x, \eta)| \leq m|\xi - \eta|$$

$$(3.3) \quad m^{-1}|\xi - \eta|^2 \leq \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \xi) - \mathcal{A}(x, \eta), \xi - \eta \rangle$$

$$(3.4) \quad \mathcal{A}(x, 0) = 0.$$

The natural setting for the Dirichlet problem

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{cases} Lu = \operatorname{div} F & \text{in } \Omega \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

corresponds to the assumption $F \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$. In this case classical results on monotone operators (see [19] e.g.) imply that there exists exactly one solution

$$u \in W_0^{1,2}(\Omega)$$

to problem (3.5), i.e.

$$(3.6) \quad \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \langle F, \nabla \varphi \rangle$$

for any $\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega)$. Of course, by an approximation argument (3.6) extends to all $\varphi \in W_0^{1,2}$ as well.

Moreover if $F, G \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ are given and $u, v \in W_0^{1,2}$ solve respectively

$$Lu = \operatorname{div} F \quad Lv = \operatorname{div} G$$

then

$$\|\nabla u - \nabla v\|_{L^2} \leq m \|F - G\|_{L^2}.$$

Using Meyers type results below the natural exponent it is possible to prove the following existence and uniqueness theorem for the Dirichlet problem (3.5) when F belongs to the grand L^2 space $L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$.

Theorem 3.1. *There exists $c = c(m, n)$ such that, if $F, G \in L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ each of the equations*

$$(3.7) \quad \operatorname{div} \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) = \operatorname{div} F$$

$$(3.8) \quad \operatorname{div} \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla v) = \operatorname{div} G$$

has unique solution in the grand Sobolev space $W_0^{1,2}$ and

$$(3.9) \quad \|\nabla u - \nabla v\|_{L^2} \leq c \|F - G\|_{L^2}.$$

Proof. From [9] we deduce that there exists $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(m, n)$ such that if $F, G \in L^{2-\varepsilon}$, each of the equations (3.7), (3.8) has unique solution in $W_0^{1,2-\varepsilon}$ and

$$(3.10) \quad \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u - \nabla v|^{2-\varepsilon} dx \leq c(m, n) \int_{\Omega} |F - G|^{2-\varepsilon} dx$$

Multiplying by $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$ and taking supremum over ε we immediately get inequality (3.9).

Remark. Many other inequalities can be deduced by (3.10), multiplying by functions $\rho = \rho(\varepsilon)$ and averaging with respect to ε (see [20]). For example if

$$F \in L^2(\log^{-a} L)(\log \log L)^{-b}$$

($a > 0, b \geq 0$) that is if

$$\int_{\Omega} |f|^2 \log^{-a}(e + |f|) [\log \log(2e + |f|)]^{-b} dx < \infty,$$

then problem (3.5) has a unique solution $u \in W_0^{1,1}(\Omega)$ such that

$$|Du| \in L^2(\log L)^{-a}(\log \log L)^{-b}$$

with a corresponding norm estimate.

4. Elliptic equations with a measure on the right hand side.

Let us consider the equation

$$(4.1) \quad \operatorname{div} F = \mu$$

where μ is a given Radon measure with finite mass on $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

We have the following result [8], [14] which naturally involves grand L^q spaces.

Lemma 4.1. *There exists $F \in L^{\frac{n}{n-1}}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n)$ such that (4.1) holds and*

$$(4.2) \quad \|F\|_{L^{\frac{n}{n-1}}(\Omega)} \leq c(n) \int_{\Omega} |d\mu|$$

Proof. A solution to (4.1) can be expressed by the vectorial Riesz potential

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\Omega} \frac{x-y}{|x-y|^n} d\mu(y)$$

where ω_n is the measure of the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n [10].

If $1 \leq s < \frac{n}{n-1}$ we can use the integral Minkowski inequality to obtain

$$\|F\|_s \leq \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \int_{\Omega} \left\| \frac{1}{|x-y|^{n-1}} \right\|_s d\mu(y) \leq \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \sup_{y \in \Omega} \left\| \frac{1}{|x-y|^{n-1}} \right\|_s \int_{\Omega} |d\mu|.$$

Since

$$\sup_{y \in \Omega} \left\| \frac{1}{|x-y|^{n-1}} \right\|_s^s = \left(\frac{\frac{n\omega_n}{n-1}}{\frac{n}{n-1-s}} \right) |\Omega|^{n-ns+s}$$

we immediately get (4.2) by taking the supremum over $s < \frac{n}{n-1}$.

Remark 1. If $d\mu = f(x) dx$ with $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ by an approximation argument we find that actually F belongs to $L_0^{\frac{n}{n-1}}(\Omega)$, that is

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon \int_{\Omega} |F|^{n-\varepsilon} dx = 0.$$

Let us see how the preceding lemma enables us to solve the question of existence and uniqueness of the solution of the Dirichlet problem

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{cases} Lu = \mu & \text{in } \Omega \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

when L is the operator (3.1) under assumptions (3.2),(3.3),(3.4), in the particular case $n = 2$.

Theorem 4.1. *Let Ω be a regular domain in \mathbb{R}^2 , μ a Radon measure with finite mass. Then there exists a unique solution $u \in W_0^{1,2}$ to the Dirichlet problem (4.3) and*

$$\|u\|_{W_0^{1,2}(\Omega)} \leq c(n) \int_{\Omega} |d\mu|.$$

Proof. We know that there exists $F \in L^2$ such that $\operatorname{div} F = \mu$ and (4.2) holds for $n = 2$, from Lemma 4.1. By Theorem 3.1 we know that there exists $u \in W_0^{1,2}$ such that

$$Lu = \operatorname{div} F = \mu$$

and

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2} \leq c_1(n) \|F\|_{L^2}.$$

The uniqueness follows from standard methods.

Remark 2. Much more general results can be proved in the case $n \geq 2$ (see [14]).

REFERENCES

- [1] E. Acerbi - N. Fusco, *Semicontinuity problems in the calculus of variations*, Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal., 86 (1986), pp. 125-145.
- [2] M. Carozza - C. Sbordone, *The distance to L^∞ in some function spaces and applications*, Diff. Integr. Equations (to appear).
- [3] R.R. Coifman - R. Rochberg, *Another characterization of BMO*, Proc. AMS, 79-2 (1980), pp. 249-254.
- [4] R.R. Coifman - P.L. Lions - Y. Meyer - S. Semmes, *Compensated compactness and Hardy spaces*, J. Math. Pures Appl., 72 (1993), pp. 247-286.
- [5] D.E. Edmunds - P. Gurka - B. Opic, *On embeddings of logarithmic Bessel Potential spaces*, (to appear).

- [6] D.E. Edmunds - M. Krbeč, *Two limiting cases of Sobolev imbeddings*, Houston J. Math., 21 (1995), pp. 119-128.
- [7] A. Fiorenza, *A summability condition ensuring BMO*, (to appear).
- [8] A. Fiorenza - C. Sbordone, *Existence and uniqueness results for solutions of nonlinear equations with right hand side in L^1* , Studia Math. (to appear).
- [9] N. Fusco - P.L. Lions - C. Sbordone, *Sobolev imbeddings theorems in borderline cases*, Proc. A. M. S., 124-2 (1996), pp. 561-565.
- [10] D. Gilbarg - N.S. Trudinger, *Elliptic Partial Differential Equations of Second Order*, Springer, 1983.
- [11] L. Greco, *A remark on the equality $\det Df = \text{Det} Df$* , Diff. Integr. Equations, 6 (1993), pp. 1089-1100.
- [12] L. Greco, *Sharp results on integrability of the Jacobian*, (to appear).
- [13] L. Greco - T. Iwaniec, *New inequalities for the Jacobian*, Ann. Inst. Poincaré, 11-1 (1994), pp. 17-35.
- [14] L. Greco - T. Iwaniec - C. Sbordone, *Inverting the p -Harmonic Operator*, Manuscripta Math., 2 (1997), pp. 249-258.
- [15] L. Greco - T. Iwaniec - C. Sbordone - B. Stroffolini, *Degree formulas for maps with nonintegrable Jacobian*, Top. Meth. Nonlinear Anal., 6 (1995), pp. 81-95.
- [16] T. Iwaniec - C. Sbordone, *On the integrability of the Jacobian under minimal hypotheses*, Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal., 119 (1992), pp. 129-143.
- [17] T. Iwaniec - C. Sbordone, *Weak minima of variational integrals*, J. Reine Angew. Math, 454(1994), pp. 143-161.
- [18] T. Iwaniec - C. Sbordone, *Riesz Transforms and elliptic pde's with VMO-coefficients*, (to appear).
- [19] J. Necas, *Introduction to the theory of Nonlinear Elliptic Equations*, J. Wiley & Sons, 1986.
- [20] C. Sbordone, *Nonlinear elliptic equations with right hand side in nonstandard spaces*, Rend. Sem. Mat. e Fis. Modena (to appear).

*Dipartimento di Matematica e Applicazioni "R. Caccioppoli",
Università di Napoli "Federico II",
Via Cintia,
Complesso Monte S. Angelo,
80126 Napoli (ITALY)*