

## LOCAL DIFFERENTIABILITY FOR THE SOLUTIONS TO BASIC SYSTEMS OF HIGHER ORDER

ROBERTO AMATO (Messina) (\*) (\*\*)

In this paper we show a local differenziability result and a fundamental estimate for the solutions to non linear basic systems of higher order.

These results are preliminary to the study of the quasi-holder continuity for non linear parabolic systems of higher order.

### 1. Introduction.

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , with  $n \geq 1$  whose boundary is sufficiently smooth; let  $x$  be a point of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $X = (x, t)$  a point of  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $N$  be a integer  $> 1$ ,  $(\cdot)_k$  and  $\|\cdot\|_k$  the scalar product and the norm in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  respectively.

If  $T$  is a positive number we set  $Q = \Omega \times (-T, 0)$  and we define

$$B(x^0, \sigma) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - x^0\| < \sigma\}$$

$$Q(X_0, \sigma) = B(x^0, \sigma) \times (t_0 - \sigma^{2m}, t_0)$$

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where  $X_0 = (x^0, t_0)$ .

Moreover we say that  $Q(X_0, \sigma) \subset\subset Q$  if

$$B(x^0, \sigma) \subset\subset \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^{2m} < t_0 + T \leq T.$$

Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$  be a multindex and  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_n$ ; we denote by  $\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}^*$  and  $\mathcal{R}'$  respectively the cartesian products  $\prod_{|\alpha| \leq m} \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\prod_{|\alpha| \leq m-1} \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $\prod_{|\alpha|=m} \mathbb{R}^N$ , while  $p = \{p^\alpha\}_{|\alpha| \leq m}$ ,  $p^* = \{p^\alpha\}_{|\alpha| \leq m-1}$  and  $p' = \{p^\alpha\}_{|\alpha|=m}$ ,  $p^\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , are respectively points of  $\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{R}^*$  and  $\mathcal{R}'$ .

If  $u : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , we set

$$Du = \{D^\alpha u\}_{|\alpha| \leq m}, \quad \delta u = \{D^\alpha u\}_{|\alpha| \leq m-1}.$$

$$D^{(k)} u = \{D^\alpha u\}_{|\alpha|=k} \quad k = 1, \dots, m.$$

Let  $A^\alpha(p') \quad |\alpha| = m$  be vectors of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  defined in  $\mathcal{R}'$ , continuous in  $p'$  and such that

$$A^\alpha(0) = 0 \quad |\alpha| = m;$$

we shall call «basic system» the non linear differential system

$$(1.1) \quad E_0 u = (-1)^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} D^\alpha A^\alpha(D^{(m)} u) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0.$$

We suppose that the vectors  $p' \rightarrow A^\alpha(p')$  are differentiable with derivatives  $\frac{\partial A^\alpha}{\partial p_k^\beta}$ ,  $|\alpha| = |\beta| = m$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$  continuous in  $p'$  and bounded in  $\mathcal{R}'$ :

$$(1.2) \quad \left\{ \sum_{h,k=1}^N \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} \left| \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha}{\partial p_k^\beta} \right|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \leq M \quad \forall p' \in \mathcal{R}',$$

then if we denote by  $A_{\alpha\beta} = \{A_{\alpha\beta}^{hk}\}$  with  $A_{\alpha\beta}^{hk}(p') = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha(\tau p')}{\partial p_k^\beta} d\tau$ , thanks to the fact that  $A^\alpha(0) = 0$ , we have

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{|\beta|=m} A_{\alpha\beta}^{hk}(p') p_k^\beta = \int_0^1 \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{|\beta|=m} \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha(\tau p')}{\partial p_k^\beta} p_k^\beta d\tau =$$

$$= \int_0^1 \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha(\tau p')}{\partial \tau} d\tau = A_h^\alpha(p')$$

and therefore

$$A^\alpha(p') = \sum_{|\beta|=m} A_{\alpha\beta}(p')p^\beta$$

and

$$(1.4) \quad E_0 u = (-1)^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} D^\alpha [A_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) D^\beta u] + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}.$$

We also suppose that the operator  $E_0$  is strongly parabolic in the following sense: there exists  $\nu > 0$  such that

$$(1.5) \quad \sum_{h,k=1}^N \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha}{\partial p_k^\beta} \xi_h^\alpha \xi_k^\beta \geq \nu \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\xi^\alpha\|^2$$

for every  $p' \in \mathcal{R}'$  and for any system  $\{\xi^\alpha\}_{|\alpha|=m}$  of vectors of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

$H^{k,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $H_0^{k,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $k$  integer  $\geq 0$ , and  $p \geq 1$ , are the usual Sobolev space of the vectors  $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ ; if  $p = 2$  we shall simply write  $H^k$  and  $H_0^k$  respectively.

If  $u \in H^{k,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $1 \leq p < +\infty$ , we define

$$|u|_{k,p,\Omega} = \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 \right)^{p/2} dx \right\}^{1/p}$$

$$\|u\|_{k,p,\Omega} = \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{|\alpha|\leq k} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 \right)^{p/2} dx \right\}^{1/p}$$

that, if  $p = 2$  we shall simply write  $|\cdot|$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  respectively.

The object of the present work is to show a result of a local differentiability for the solutions to basic systems of higher order similar to ones obtained in [2]. Such result has value in itself and together with the ones demonstrated in [1] will be able to achieve further regularity results for the solutions of nonlinear parabolic system of higher order of general type.

We also observe that our result cannot be obtained as a particular case of the results shown in [4], because we do not require that the solutions to the basic systems belong to  $C^{m-1,\lambda}(\bar{Q}, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $0 < \lambda < 1$ . In fact the type of solution that we consider for the basic systems is the following: a vector  $u \in L^2(-T, 0, H^m(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N))$  is a solution of the system (1.1) if it results

$$(1.6) \quad \int_Q \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} (A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) | D^\alpha \varphi) - \left( u \left| \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} \right. \right) \right\} dX = 0$$

$\forall \varphi \in L^2(-T, 0, H_0^m(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)) \cap H^1(-T, 0, L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)) : \varphi(x, -T) = \varphi(x, 0) = 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

Particularly by our result is useful to achieve a fundamental estimate (see sect. n. 3) which plays an important role in the regularity theory.

## 2. Local differentiability for the basic systems.

In this section we show a results of local differentiability for the solutions to basic systems similar to the ones obtained in [2].

The following theorem holds:

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $u \in L^2(-T, 0, H^m(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N))$  be a solution of the system*

$$(2.1) \quad (-1)^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} D^\alpha A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0;$$

*then it exists*

$$D^\alpha u \in L_{loc}^2(Q, \mathbb{R}^N), \quad \forall \alpha : |\alpha| = m + 1,$$

*and  $\forall B(x^0, 2\sigma) \subset \Omega, \forall 2a \in (0, T)$  we have:*

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{-a}^0 dt \int_{B(x^0, \sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m+1} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dx \leq$$

$$\leq c(\nu, M) \sum_{0 < |\alpha| \leq m} \left( \frac{1}{a \left(1 - \frac{|\alpha|-1}{m}\right)} + \frac{1}{\sigma^{2m \left(1 - \frac{|\alpha|-1}{m}\right)}} \right) \cdot \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(x^0, 2\sigma)} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dX.$$

*Proof.* To achieve this result let us assume in (1.6), as test function, the function  $\varphi$  constructed in the following way: let  $\vartheta(x) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be a function with the following properties

$$0 \leq \vartheta \leq 1, \quad \vartheta = 1 \text{ in } B(\sigma), \quad \vartheta = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n \setminus B\left(\frac{3}{2}\sigma\right)$$

$$|D^\gamma \vartheta| \leq c\sigma^{-|\gamma|} \quad \forall \gamma$$

where for the sake of brevity we set  $B(x^0, \sigma) = B(\sigma)$

Let  $\rho_p(t)$ , with  $p$  integer  $> 2/a$ ,  $2a \in (0, T)$ , be a function defined in  $\mathbb{R}$  as follows

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \rho_p(t) = 1 & \text{if } -a \leq t \leq -2/p \\ \rho_p(t) = 0 & \text{if } t > -1/p \text{ or } t < -2a \\ \rho_p(t) = \frac{t}{a} + 2 & \text{if } -2a \leq t \leq -a \\ \rho_p(t) = -(pt + 1) & \text{if } -2/p \leq t \leq -1/p. \end{array} \right.$$

Let  $\{g_s(t)\}$  be a sequence of symmetric mollifying functions such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} g_s(t) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \quad g_s(t) \geq 0 \quad g_s(t) = g_s(-t) \\ \text{supp } g_s(t) \subset [-1/s, 1/s] \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}} g_s(t) dt = 1 \end{array} \right.$$

Then for every  $p > 2/a$ ,  $\forall s > \max\left\{p, \frac{1}{T-2a}\right\}$  and for  $|h| < \frac{\sigma}{2}$  we consider the function

$$(2.3) \quad \varphi = \tau_{r,-h} \{ \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p [(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} u) * g_s] \}$$

where

$$\tau_{r,h}u = u(x + he^r, t) - u(x, t), \quad r \text{ integer}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq n,$$

and, setting (2.3) in (1.6), we obtain:

$$(2.4) \quad \int_Q \sum_{|\alpha|=m} (\tau_{r,h}A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) | D^\alpha \{ \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p(\rho_p \tau_{r,h}u) * g_s \} ) dX = \\ = \int_Q (\tau_{r,h}u | \vartheta^{2m} \{ \rho_p[(\rho_p \tau_{r,h}u) * g_s] \} ') dX.$$

Let us set

$$A_{\alpha\beta} = \{ A_{\alpha\beta}^{rs} \} \quad \text{with} \quad A_{\alpha\beta}^{rs} = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial A_r^\alpha(D^{(m)}u + \eta \tau_{r,h}D^{(m)}u)}{\partial p_s^\beta} d\eta$$

and let us observe that

$$\sum_{|\beta|=m} A_{\alpha\beta} \tau_{r,h}D^\beta u = \int_0^1 \sum_{|\beta|=m} \frac{\partial A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u + \eta \tau_{r,h}D^{(m)}u)}{\partial p^\beta} \tau_{r,h}D^\beta u d\eta = \\ = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u + \eta \tau_{r,h}D^{(m)}u)}{d\eta} d\eta = \\ = A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u(x + he^r, t)) - A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u(x, t)) = \\ = \tau_{r,h}A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u(x, t));$$

and therefore we have

$$(2.5) \quad \tau_{r,h}A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) = \sum_{|\beta|=m} A_{\alpha\beta} \tau_{r,h}D^\beta u.$$

Taking into account that in virtue of symmetry of  $g_s(t)$  it results

$$(2.6) \quad \int_Q (\tau_{r,h}u | \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p[(\rho_p \tau_{r,h}u) * g_s] ') dX = 0,$$

from (2.4), (2.5) and (2.6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.7) \quad & \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (A_{\alpha\beta} \rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\beta u | (\rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u) * g_s) dX + \\
 & + \int_Q \vartheta^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (A_{\alpha\beta} \rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\beta u | \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta) [(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\gamma u) * g_s]) dX = \\
 & = \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \rho'_p(\tau_{r,h} u | (\rho_p \tau_{r,h} u) * g_s) dX
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta)$  are suitable function such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 D^\alpha \{ \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p [(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} u) * g_s] \} &= \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p [(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u) * g_s] + \\
 & + \vartheta^m \rho_p \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta) [(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\gamma u) * g_s]
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$|C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta)| \leq c \sigma^{|\gamma|-m}.$$

It is well known that if  $s \rightarrow +\infty$  it results

$$(\rho_p \tau_{r,h} u) * g_s \rightarrow \rho_p \tau_{r,h} u \quad \text{in } L^2(-T, 0, H^m(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)),$$

therefore from (2.7), taking the limit for  $s \rightarrow +\infty$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.8) \quad & \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (A_{\alpha\beta} \rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\beta u | \rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u) dX + \\
 & + \int_Q \vartheta^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (A_{\alpha\beta} \rho_p \tau_{r,h} D^\beta u | \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} \rho_p \tau_{r,h} C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta) D^\gamma u) dX = \\
 & = \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \rho'_p(\tau_{r,h} u | \rho_p \tau_{r,h} u) dX.
 \end{aligned}$$

By the ellipticity condition and Holder inequality, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , (2.8) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \nu \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p^2 \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u\|^2 dX &\leq \varepsilon \int_Q \rho_p^2 \vartheta^{2m} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u\|^2 dX + \\ &+ c(\varepsilon, M) \int_Q \rho_p^2 \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} |C_{\alpha\gamma}(\vartheta)|^2 \|\tau_{r,h} D^\gamma u\|^2 dX + \\ &+ \int_Q \vartheta^{2m} \rho_p \rho'_p \|\tau_{r,h} u\|^2 dX. \end{aligned}$$

At last, since it results

$$\rho_p \rho'_p \begin{cases} \leq 0 & \text{for } t \geq -2/p \\ = 0 & \text{for } t \leq -2a \text{ and for } -a \leq t \leq -2/p \\ \leq 1/a & \text{for } -2a \leq t \leq -a \end{cases}$$

for  $\varepsilon$  sufficiently small we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-a}^{-2/p} dt \int_{B(\sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u\|^2 dx &\leq \frac{c(\nu)}{a} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(\frac{3}{2}\sigma)} \|\tau_{r,h} u\|^2 dx + \\ &+ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} \frac{c(\nu, M)}{\sigma^{2(m-|\gamma|)}} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(\frac{3}{2}\sigma)} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\gamma u\|^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

and taking the limit for  $p \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-a}^0 dt \int_{B(\sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u\|^2 dx &\leq \frac{c(\nu)}{a} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(\frac{3}{2}\sigma)} \|\tau_{r,h} u\|^2 dx + \\ &+ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{\gamma < \alpha} \frac{c(\nu, M)}{\sigma^{2(m-|\gamma|)}} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(\frac{3}{2}\sigma)} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\gamma u\|^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$



Applying the lemma 3.VI of [3], Chap. I, we obtain

$$\int_{-a}^0 dt \int_{B(\sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \|\tau_{r,h} D^\alpha u\|^2 dx \leq c(\nu) \frac{|h|^2}{a} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(2\sigma)} \|D^{(1)}u\|^2 dx +$$

$$+ \sum_{0 \leq |\alpha| \leq m} \frac{|h|^2 c(\nu, M)}{\sigma^{2(m-|\alpha|+1)}} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(2\sigma)} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dx$$

and by means of well known result (see theorem 3.X of [3], Chap. I) we get that it exists  $D^\alpha u \in L^2(B(\sigma) \times (-a, 0), \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $\forall \alpha : |\alpha| = m + 1$ , and that the inequality holds:

$$\int_{-a}^0 dt \int_{B(\sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m+1} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dx \leq \frac{c(\nu)}{a} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(2\sigma)} \|D^{(1)}u\|^2 dx +$$

$$+ \sum_{0 \leq |\alpha| \leq m} \frac{c(\nu, M)}{\sigma^{2(m-|\alpha|+1)}} \int_{-2a}^0 dt \int_{B(2\sigma)} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dx$$

from which (2.2) follows.

### 3. A fundamental estimate.

We may use theorem 2.1 to give a fundamental estimate. In fact the following result holds:

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $u \in L^2(-T, 0, H^m(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N))$  be a solution of the system*

$$(3.1) \quad (-1)^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} D^\alpha A^\alpha (D^{(m)}u) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 0.$$

*Then there exists an  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$  such that  $\forall Q(X_0, \sigma) \subset Q$  and  $\forall \lambda \in (0, 1)$ :*

$$(3.2) \quad \int_{Q(X_0, \lambda\sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m+1} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dX \leq c(\nu, M) \lambda^{\varepsilon(n+2m)}.$$

$$\int_{Q(X_0, \sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m+1} \|D^\alpha u\|^2 dX.$$

*Proof.* Let us choose in (1.6)  $\varphi = D_s \psi$ ,  $s = 1, \dots, n$  with  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(Q(X_0, \sigma), \mathbb{R}^N)$ . We obtain

$$\int_{Q(X_0, \sigma)} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} (D_s A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) |D^\alpha \psi) - \left( D_s u \left| \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right. \right) dX = 0$$

and, taking into account that it results

$$(3.4) \quad D_s A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u) = \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{|\beta|=m} \frac{\partial A^\alpha(D^{(m)}u)}{\partial p_k^\beta} D_s D^\beta u_k,$$

we also have

$$(3.5) \quad \int_{Q(X_0, \sigma)} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (A_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) D^\beta D_s u |D^\alpha \psi) - \left( D_s u \left| \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right. \right) \right\} dX = 0$$

$$\forall \psi \in C_0^\infty(Q(X_0, \sigma), \mathbb{R}^N) \text{ and } s = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

with

$$A_{\alpha\beta} = (A_{\alpha\beta}^{hk}), \quad A_{\alpha\beta}^{hk}(p') = \frac{\partial A_h^\alpha(p)}{\partial p_k^\beta}.$$

Setting

$$U = D^{(1)}u$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccc} A_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) & \vdots & 0 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & \vdots & 0 & \vdots & A_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) \end{array} \right\} n^2 \text{ blocks}$$

from theorem 2.1 it follows that  $U \in L^2(t_0 - \sigma^{2m}, t_0, H^m(B(x^0, \sigma), \mathbb{R}^{nN}))$  and in virtue of (3.5) we have:

$$(3.6) \quad \int_{Q(X_0, \sigma)} \left\{ \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{|\beta|=m} (\mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta}(D^{(m)}u) D^\beta U |D^\alpha \psi) - \left( U \left| \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right. \right) \right\} dX$$

$$\forall \psi \in C_0^\infty(Q(X_0, \sigma), \mathbb{R}^{nN}).$$

Because  $\mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta}(p')$  are  $nN \times nN$  matrices bounded and elliptic we can apply the theorem (2.1) of [1] that ensures the estimate

$$\int_{Q(\lambda,\sigma)} \|D^{(m)}U\|^2 dX \leq c(\nu, M)\lambda^{\varepsilon(n+2m)} \int_{Q(\sigma)} \|D^{(m)}U\|^2 dX$$

and so the assert is achieved.

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*Dipartimento di Matematica  
contrada Papardo  
98010 S. Agata (Messina)*