

Renormalized solutions adapted to the fractal Laplace operator

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based on joint work with

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Recent trends in differential equations:
analysis and approximation methods

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Plan of the talk

- 1 "Infinite energy solutions" for elliptic PDEs
- 2 Fractal Laplace operator
- 3 Sample nonlocal problem and well-posedness
- 4 Definition of renormalized solutions
- 5 (Hints and) Proof

WHY "INFINITE ENERGY SOLUTIONS" ?

Elliptic problems beyond the variational setting. "Closure solutions".

Consider for instance the elliptic problem

$$u - \Delta u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega;$$

the classical setting is the variational one: $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, with $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$.

But one also has the property $\|u - \hat{u}\|_{L^1(\Omega)} \leq \|f - \hat{f}\|_{L^1(\Omega)}$

for solutions u, \hat{u} corresponding to data $f, \hat{f} \in L^1 \cap H^{-1}$.

Since every function $f \in L^1$ can be approximated in $\|\cdot\|_{L^1}$ by $L^1 \cap H^{-1}$ functions f_n , then solutions u_n exist, and $(u_n)_n$ is a Cauchy sequence.

From the abstract point of view, one has the solution operator

$L^1 \cap H^{-1} \rightarrow L^1 \cap H_0^1$ and its closure: $L^1 \rightarrow L^1$ (we get "closure solutions").

NB: the nonlinear semigroup theory then yields "mild solutions" of $u_t = \Delta u$.

NB: "Closure" and "mild" solutions may fall out of the energy space !

Then one faces the following question:

in which sense "closure solutions" satisfy the original equation ?

In some cases it is easy to give a partial answer: the "closure solutions" may happen to be solutions in the sense of distributions. But this answer is not satisfactory, because one fails to prove well-posedness in the distributional setting (uniqueness may fail: J. Serrin's counterexample, etc.)

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Renormalization of PDEs.

Assume u is a variational solution of $u - \Delta u = f$, and let $S : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ be a sufficiently regular function with bounded derivative $S'(\cdot) \geq 0$. The multiplication of the equation by $S'(u) \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ (this operation makes sense within the setting of variational solutions) leads to a "new equation":

$$S'(u)u - \Delta S(u) + S''(u)|\nabla u|^2 = S'(u)f.$$

This can be rewritten as $P(w) - \Delta w + Q(w)|\nabla w|^2 = R(w)f$ with $w := S(u)$ and nonlinearities $P(\cdot), Q(\cdot), R(\cdot)$ that only depend on $S(\cdot)$. Then:

- a "usual solution" verifies a family of "complementary PDEs" on $w = S(u)$ for different nonlinearities $S(\cdot)$
- some of these complementary PDEs also yield "estimates for large u "
- moreover, assuming that u is such that $w = S(u)$ verify these "complementary PDEs" and that u satisfies the "estimates for large u " and that $u \in H_0^1$, one deduces that u is a variational solution
- but: in general, saying that u satisfies "complementary PDEs" + "large u estimates" yields a weaker notion of solution (without asking $u \in H_0^1$)

This leads to two intrinsic interpretations of 'closure solutions':

- the renormalized solutions (P.L. Lions and F. Murat)
- the "BBGGPV entropy solutions" of elliptic problems (Ph. Bénilan et al.)

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Truncations. Integrability constraints. Entropy (BBGGPV) and renormalized (Lions-Murat) solutions.

Consider the functions $T_k(\cdot)$ and $\varphi_k(\cdot)$ defined, for $k > 0$, by

$$T_k : r \mapsto \text{sign } r \min\{k, |r|\} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_k : r \mapsto T_k(r+1) - T_k(r);$$

$T_k(\cdot)$ is the truncation function at level $k > 0$.

If we formally take $T_k(u)$ and $\varphi_k(u)$ for the test functions in the equation $u - \Delta u = f$, we find the "estimates for large u "

$$\int_{[|u|<k]} |\nabla u|^2 \leq k \int |f|, \quad \int_{[k<|u|<k+1]} |\nabla u|^2 \leq \int_{[|u|>k]} |f| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

- firstly, one gets the "renormalized formulation"

$$\int (u - f) S'(u) \phi + \nabla S(u) \cdot \nabla \phi + S''(u) |\nabla u|^2 \phi = 0 \text{ for } \phi \in H_0^1 \cap L^\infty.$$

- secondly, inspired by the idea of variational inequalities, one gets

$$\int (u - f) T_k(u - \phi) + \nabla u \cdot \nabla T_k(u - \phi) \leq 0, \text{ for } \phi \in H_0^1 \cap L^\infty;$$

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FRACTAL LAPLACE OPERATOR AND RELATED PDES

Fractal Laplace operator...

Our **prototype nonlocal operator** is the fractal (fractional) laplacian on \mathbb{R}^n , denoted \mathcal{L} or $(-\Delta)^{s/2}$, for $s \in (0, 2)$. It can be defined via the Fourier transform:

$$\mathcal{L}u = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left[|\cdot|^s \mathcal{F}[u](\cdot) \right].$$

Another definition is by the **Lévy-Khintchin formula** :

$$(\mathcal{L}u)(x) = -p.v. \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[u(x+z) - u(x) \right] d\mu(z) \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where $d\mu(z)$ is the measure with the density $G_s |z|^{-(n+s)}$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n , G_s being a normalization constant.

Notice the following representation of the quadratic form $(\mathcal{L}u, v)_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}$:

Proposition

Set $d\pi(x, y) := \frac{1}{2} g(x-y) dx dy$. For all $u, v \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (and more, by density) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\mathcal{L}u) v = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (u(x) - u(y)) (v(x) - v(y)) d\pi(x, y)$.

Notation: $\delta_{x,y} v := v(x) - v(y)$, $\theta_{x,y} v := \frac{v(x)+v(y)}{2}$.

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Set $d\pi(x, y) := \frac{1}{2} g(x-y) dx dy$. For all $u, v \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (and more, by density) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (\mathcal{L}u) v = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (u(x) - u(y)) (v(x) - v(y)) d\pi(x, y)$.

Notation: $\delta_{x,y} v := v(x) - v(y)$, $\theta_{x,y} v := \frac{v(x)+v(y)}{2}$.

Fractal Laplace operator...

Our **prototype nonlocal operator** is the fractal (fractional) laplacian on \mathbb{R}^n , denoted \mathcal{L} or $(-\Delta)^{s/2}$, for $s \in (0, 2)$. It can be defined via the Fourier transform:

$$\mathcal{L}u = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left[|\cdot|^s \mathcal{F}[u](\cdot) \right].$$

Another definition is by the **Lévy-Khintchin formula** :

$$(\mathcal{L}u)(x) = -p.v. \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[u(x+z) - u(x) \right] d\mu(z) \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

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SAMPLE NONLOCAL PROBLEM

A sample nonlocal problem...

In view of the Lévy-Khintchine formula, the fractional Laplacian falls within the wide class of Lévy integral diffusion operators. Our framework is the one of **Lévy operators with even density functions**:

$$d\mu(z) = g(z)dz \quad \text{with } g \geq 0, \quad g(z) = g(-z), \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \min\{1, |z|^2\} g(z) dz < +\infty.$$

Fix such a Lévy operator. Fix a continuous function β on \mathbb{R} with $\beta(0) = 0$ and $\beta(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}$. Consider the problem

$$\beta(u) + \mathcal{L}u = f \quad \text{with source } f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Our results (Alibaud, Andr., Bendahmane, C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris'10) are:

- a definition of renormalized solutions
- the well-posedness: existence, uniqueness, L^1 contraction

$$\|\beta(u) - \beta(\hat{u})\|_{L^1} \leq \|f - \hat{f}\|_{L^1}$$
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Recall that $d\pi(x, y)$ denotes the measure $\frac{1}{2}g(x-y) dx dy$ on \mathbb{R}^{2n} .

Definition

Let $f \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. A measurable function $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called renormalized solution of the problem $\beta(u) + \mathcal{L}u = f$ if $b = \beta(u) \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and

$$(i) \text{ for all } k > 0, \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (u(x) - u(y)) (T_k u(x) - T_k u(y)) d\pi(x, y) < +\infty;$$

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(ii) for all compactly supported renormalization function $H \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$, for all test function $\phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$

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"Phase plane" splitting and equivalent form of the constraint...

Set $H_\mu := \left\{ v \mid \delta_{x,y} v \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n}, d\pi) \right\}$; recall that $\delta_{x,y} v = v(x) - v(y)$.

The quotient space $H_\mu / \{v \equiv \text{const}\}$ is a Hilbert space under the scalar product $(v, w) \mapsto \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} v) (\delta_{x,y} w) d\pi(x, y)$.

A close examination shows that the "estimates for large u " in the Definition are equivalent to the properties

$$\|T_k u\|_{H_\mu} \leq k \|f\|_{L^1} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \iint_{[(u(x), u(y)) \in A_k]} |u(x) - u(y)| d\pi(x, y) = 0,$$

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Heuristically: due to the "estimates for large u ", at each truncation level k ,

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(HINTS AND) PROOF

A glimpse at the ideas and hints of the proof...

The proof is made in several steps; we **combine uniqueness and existence arguments to make the proof technically simpler.**

- **Existence of variational solutions** : e.g., for data in $L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ the solutions are obtained by the classical minimization technique for the energy functional

$$\mathcal{J}[v] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[\int_0^v \beta(r) dr - vf \right] + \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} v)^2 d\pi(x, y).$$

- **Estimates on the solutions** : taking $T_k(u)$ and $\varphi_k(u)$ for test functions, we find

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A glimpse at the ideas and hints of the proof...

The proof is made in several steps; we **combine uniqueness and existence arguments to make the proof technically simpler.**

- **Existence of variational solutions** : e.g., for data in $L_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ the solutions are obtained by the classical minimization technique for the energy functional

$$\mathcal{J}[v] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[\int_0^v \beta(r) dr - vf \right] + \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} v)^2 d\pi(x, y).$$

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Let u, \hat{u} be two renormalized solutions. Assume that one of them is in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$; then $T_k u \equiv u$ for large k , thus this solution also belongs to H_μ .

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$$f^{l,m} = \min\{f^+, l\} \mathbf{1}_{|x|<l} - \min\{f^-, m\} \mathbf{1}_{|x|<m};$$

the sequence $(f^{l,m})_{l,m}$ is monotone in l and in m , and $|f^{l,m}| \leq |f|$.

Associated variational solutions $u^{l,m}$ obey uniform estimates given above. By the above results, $u^{l,m} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$; thus we use the partial comparison principle and prove that $(b^{l,m})_{l,m}$ is "bi-monotone".

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We deduce the a.e. convergence of $b^{l,m}$ to an L^1 function b .

By the a priori estimates, there exists an $\bar{\mathbb{R}}$ -valued u such that for all k , $T_k u^{l,m}$ converge to $T_k u$ weakly in H_μ and a.e..

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A glimpse at the ideas and hints of the proof...

- **Passage to the limit :**

We already have a renormalized formulation for $u^{l,m}$. Since $|f^{l,m}| \leq |f|$ and $u^{l,m}$ converge pointwise to an a.e. finite limit u , one shows that the H_μ bounds for $u^{l,m}$ are uniform. **By the Fatou lemma, the limit u fulfills (i). To find (ii), first we get a "rough" version of the renormalized equation: namely, the term**

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} u) (\delta_{x,y} H u) (\theta_{x,y} \phi) d\pi(x, y)$$

is replaced by $\overline{\delta_H}(1)$ as $H(\cdot)$ goes to 1.

Within, we take $\phi = T_k u$ for the test function; and we take $\phi = T_k u^{l,m}$ for the test function in the renormalized formulation for l, m . Letting $H(\cdot)$ go to 1 on \mathbb{R} (here the bounds and constraints are used), we find that

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} u) (\delta_{x,y} T_k u) d\pi(x, y) \geq \overline{\lim}_{l \rightarrow \infty} \overline{\lim}_{m \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} (\delta_{x,y} u^{l,m}) (\delta_{x,y} T_k u^{l,m}) d\pi(x, y).$$

Hence **the sequence** $\left((\delta_{x,y} u^{l,m}) (\delta_{x,y} T_k u^{l,m}) \right)_{l,m}$ **converges in**

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A glimpse at the ideas and hints of the proof...

- **Extension of the comparison property :**

Let $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$; let \hat{u} be a renormalized solution with datum f .

A renormalized solution u was constructed as the limit of bounded solutions $u^{l,m}$.

Passing to the limit in the previously obtained comparison inequality for $u^{l,m}$ and \hat{u} , we find that $b = \hat{b}$. Further analysis shows that

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} |\delta_{x,y}(u - \hat{u})|^2 = 0, \text{ and we get } u = \hat{u}.$$

Hence by the density argument, **one justifies the L^1 contraction and comparison property in full generality.**

NB: **the theory for "BBGGPV entropy solutions" is even simpler.**

Moreover, both kinds of solutions can be seen as "closure solutions" with respect to the one-and-the-same set of variational solutions; therefore, **renormalized and BBGGPV entropy solutions actually coincide.**

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Thank you — Merci — Danke

DANKE SCHÖN !