

THE REGULARITY OF MAPPINGS WITH A CONVEX POTENTIAL

LUIS A. CAFFARELLI

In this work, we apply the techniques developed in [C1] to the problem of mappings with a convex potential between domains.

That is, given two bounded domains Ω_1, Ω_2 of R^n and two nonnegative real functions f_i defined in Ω_i that are bounded away from zero and infinity, we want to study the map $\vec{v} = \nabla\psi$ for a Lipschitz convex ψ , such that $\nabla\psi$ maps Ω_1 onto Ω_2 in the a.e. sense and in some (weak) sense.

$$(1) \quad f_2(\nabla\psi) \det D_{ij}\psi = f_1(X).$$

In recent work Y. Brenier showed existence and uniqueness of such a map (provided that $|\partial\Omega_i| = 0$) under the obvious compatibility condition

$$\int_{\Omega_1} f_1 = \int_{\Omega_2} f_2.$$

The map $\nabla\psi$ is into Ω_2 in the sense that $\psi = \sup L_\alpha$ with L_α linear functions and $\nabla L_\alpha \in \Omega_2$. The Monge-Ampère equation (1) is satisfied in the weak sense.

$$\int_{\Omega_2} \eta(Y) f_2(Y) dy = \int_{\Omega_1} \eta(\nabla\psi) f_1(X) dX$$

for any continuous function η , (here $\nabla\psi$ is understood in the L^∞ -sense).

As can be seen by an elementary example, this definition is strictly weaker than the classical definition of weak solution by Pogorelov, since it is unable to see the singular part of $\det D_{ij}\psi$.

On the other hand, if both Ω_i are convex, Pogorelov [P] constructed a weak solution in the Alexandrov sense.

The purpose of this note is to show

Theorem. *If Ω_2 is convex and $f_i, 1/f_i$ are bounded, then Brenier's solution is a weak solution in the sense of Alexandrov.*

Further, ψ is strictly convex and $C^{1,\beta}$ for some β .

If f_i are continuous, $\psi \in W_{loc}^{2,p}$ for every p .

If f_i are $C^{\bar{a}}$, $\psi \in C^{2,a}$ for any $0 < a < \bar{a}$.

Further regularity follows from classical standard estimates.

The main difficulty in the proof of the theorem consists in showing that Brenier's solution is indeed a solution in the sense of Alexandrov, i.e., that

Received by the editors September 20, 1990.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 35J65, 35B65.

Supported in part by N.S.F. grants DMS 8804567 and INT 8902934.

$\det D_{ij}\psi$ has no singular part and that ψ is strictly convex (in the sense of [C1]).

After this, the results in [C1, C2, C3] provide the complete regularity theory.

To see that the condition needed on Ω_2 is of geometrical nature, and neither a topological or differentiability one, consider the following examples.

(i) Let, on R^2 ,

$$\psi_0 = |x_1| + \frac{1}{2}(x_1^2 + x_2^2).$$

Then $\nabla\psi_0 = (x_1 + \text{sign } x_1, x_2)$ is the (unique) map from the unit disc onto the two shifted halfdiscs, $D_1^+ + (1, 0)$ and $D_1^- - (1, 0)$. In the Alexandrov sense, though, $\det D_{ij}\psi$ has a singular measure along $\{x_1 = 0\}$ and the image $\nabla\psi$, as a multivalued map, fills the strip $|x_1| \leq 1$.

(ii) Bridge now the two shifted halfdiscs of the previous example with an ε -horizontal strip $\{|x_2| < \varepsilon, |x_1| \leq 1\}$, make an ε -smoothing of the new domain to make it C^∞ with total area

$$|\Omega_2| = \Pi = |D_1|,$$

and consider the Brenier map $\nabla\psi_\varepsilon: D_1 \rightarrow \Omega_\varepsilon$ (with $f \equiv 1$). It follows from Brenier's theorem that ψ_ε converges uniformly to ψ_0 , and hence in the sense of Alexandrov that

$$\lim |\det D_{ij}\psi_\varepsilon(D_1)| \geq |\det D_{ij}\psi_0(D_1)|$$

($|\cdot|$ denotes total mass).

But since $|\det D_{ij}\psi_0(D_1)| = |D_1| + |\{|x_1| < 1\}|$ (the added strip due to the singular part of $\det D_{ij}\psi_0$), it follows that $\det D_{ij}\psi_\varepsilon$ must also have a singular part for ε small enough.

The difficulty posed by this counterexample is easily solved by the following remark.

Lemma 1. *If ψ is locally Lipschitz and convex then*

(a) *a point of Lebesgue differentiability of $\nabla\psi$ (as an L^∞ function) is a point of continuity for $\nabla\psi$;*

(b) *if $\nabla\psi$, in the a.e. sense, is contained in Ω , then, in the multivalued map sense, $\nabla\psi$ is contained in $\Gamma(\Omega)$, the closed convex envelope of Ω .*

Proof. (a) If 0 is not a point of continuity for $\nabla\psi$ we have at zero at least two supporting planes that can be normalized to be $Z = \pm ax_1$ ($a > 0$) by subtracting an appropriate linear function.

Let Γ_ε^+ be the cone

$$\Gamma_\varepsilon^+ = \{X : \langle X, e_1 \rangle \geq (1 - \varepsilon)|X|\}.$$

Along this cone a supporting plane at a point $X_0 = (x^0, y^0)$, (x^0 a scalar),

$$Z = \langle \vec{v}, X \rangle + a$$

must satisfy

$$Z(0) = a < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad Z(X_0) = v_1 x^0 + \langle \vec{v}_2, y^0 \rangle + a \geq ax^0.$$

In particular,

$$v_1 x^0 + \langle \vec{v}_2, y^0 \rangle \geq ax^0 \quad \text{or} \quad v_1 \geq a - \frac{1}{x^0} \langle \vec{v}_2, y^0 \rangle.$$

In particular, since along Γ , $|y^0| < C\epsilon x^0$ and $|\vec{v}_2| \leq C$ because ψ is Lipschitz, $v_1 + C\epsilon \geq a$.

For ϵ small enough, $v_1 \geq a/2$. Conversely in the opposite cone, Γ_ϵ^- , $v_1 \leq -a/2$ and 0 is not a point of Lebesgue differentiability.

This proves part (a).

In order to prove part (b), since values of Lebesgue differentiability of $\nabla\psi$ are, after (a), mapped in Ω , we need to prove the following:

Let 0 be a point of discontinuity for $\nabla\psi$ and Σ the convex, (nontrivial) set of supporting planes to ψ at 0.

We will say that \vec{u} is a strongly extremal point of Σ if Σ is tangent from inside to some sphere at \vec{u} .

For bounded convex sets, strongly extremal points are dense in the set of extremal points, and therefore, it is enough to show that strongly extremal points, \vec{u} , are limits of points of continuity for $\nabla\psi$.

By subtracting a linear function and a rotation we may assume that $\vec{u} = 0$ and $\Sigma \subset B_R(Re_1)$ (the ball of radius R and center Re_1 .)

We then show that along any cuspidal domain around the ray $-\lambda e_1$, all possible supporting vectors converge to zero.

Indeed, any sequence $v^{(k)}$ must converge to a point in Σ , and hence their first component satisfy

$$\underline{\lim} v_1^{(k)} \geq 0.$$

On the other, $\vec{u} = 0$ being a supporting plane, $\psi \geq 0$ and from the argument in part (a).

$$\underline{\lim} \langle \nabla\psi, -e_1 \rangle \geq -C\epsilon$$

along any Γ_ϵ cone around the $-e_1$ axis.

Hence $\lim v_1^k = 0$ and v^k must converge to zero along any cuspidal domain. \square

We now study solutions ψ when Ω_2 is already convex.

More precisely

Lemma 2. Consider a convex function ϕ such that

- (a) $\phi = \sup L_\alpha$, L_α linear, $\nabla L_\alpha \in \Omega_2$;
- (b) $|\Gamma(\Omega_2) \setminus \Omega_2| = 0$ ($||$ Lebesgue measure, $\Gamma(\Omega_2)$ the convex envelope of Ω_2);
- (c) for any continuous η

$$C_1 \int \eta(\nabla\phi)(X) dX \leq \int_{\Omega_2} \eta(Y) dY \leq C_2 \int_{\Omega_1} \eta(\nabla\phi(X)) dX$$

($\nabla\phi$ as an L^∞ function).

Then, in the sense of Alexandrov ϕ satisfies (in all of R^n)

$$C_1 \chi_{\Omega_1} \leq \det D_{ij}\phi \leq C_2 \chi_{\Omega_1}.$$

Proof. It is clear that

$$C_1 \chi_{\Omega_1} \leq \det D_{ij} \varphi.$$

Indeed, for any compact set $K_1 \subset \Omega_1$, $K_2 = \nabla \varphi(K_1)$ in the multivalued sense is compact. If η is any continuous majorant of χ_{K_2}

$$\int \eta(Y) dx \geq C_1 \int \eta(\nabla \varphi) dX \geq C_1 |K_1|.$$

In particular if $\nabla \varphi(S)$ for $S \subset \Omega_1$ has measure zero, also S must have measure zero.

To prove the second part of the inequality, we recall that given K compact in the X space, the set D , in the ∇ space of those \vec{u} such that

$$(\nabla \varphi)^{-1}(\vec{u}) \cap K \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad (\nabla \varphi)^{-1}(\vec{u}) \cap \mathcal{E}K \neq \emptyset$$

has measure zero. (See [C1], the proof of the remark in p. 137.)

Hence $|(\nabla \varphi)^{-1}(\nabla \varphi(K_1)) \setminus K_1| = 0$.

But now for any K_1 and any continuous majorant η of $\nabla \varphi(K_1)$, we have

$$|\nabla \varphi(K_1)| \leq \int_{\Gamma(\Omega_2)} \eta(Y) dY = \int_{\Omega_2} \eta(Y) dY \leq C_2 \int_{\Omega_2} \eta(\nabla \varphi) dX.$$

If now $0 \leq \eta \leq 1$ and η converges uniformly to zero on compact sets outside $\nabla \varphi(K_1)$, $\eta(\nabla \varphi)$ converges uniformly to zero on compact subsets of $\Omega_1 \setminus (\nabla \varphi)^{-1}(\nabla \varphi(K_1))$.

Therefore $\int \eta(\nabla \varphi(X)) dX$ is controlled by $|\chi_{\nabla \varphi^{-1}(\nabla \varphi(K_1))}| = |\chi_{K_1}|$ and the proof is complete. \square

At this point we have been able to show that $\det D_{ij} \varphi$ has no singular measure.

To complete our argument; let us show that $\varphi|_{\Omega_1}$ is strictly convex (in the sense of [C1], i.e., that every tangent plane has only one contact point with graph of φ).

We first point out that if φ is a globally Lipschitz convex nonnegative function and $\varphi \equiv 0$ on a line (say in the e_1 direction) then $\varphi_{e_1} \equiv 0$ and hence $\det D_{ij} \varphi \equiv 0$.

Therefore it is enough to prove.

Lemma 3. *Let φ be a globally Lipschitz convex nonnegative function, that satisfies, in the Alexandrov sense*

$$C_1 \chi_{\Omega_1} \leq \det D_{ij} \varphi \leq C_2 \chi_{\Omega_1}.$$

Then, if the (convex) set $S = \{\varphi \equiv 0\}$ intersects Ω_1 in more than a point, then S has no extremal points (and contains therefore a line).

Proof. φ being convex and globally Lipschitz, it has an asymptotic cone at infinity and $\nabla \varphi(R^n)$ is a bounded convex set with nonempty interior Γ .

We recall from [C1] that S cannot have extremal points in Ω_1 , and since $\det D_{ij} \varphi \equiv 0$ on $\mathcal{E}\Omega_1$, it follows that S can only have extremal points on $\partial\Omega_1$.

As it was observed before Lemma 3, S cannot contain a line (if not $\det D_{ij}\varphi \equiv 0$). Hence it must have a supporting plane, let us say $x_1 = 0$, that has only one contact point, say 0 , with S .

Then 0 must belong to $\partial\Omega_1$, and since S has also a point in the interior of Ω_1 , we have the following geometric situation:

- (i) $S \subset \{x_1 \leq 0\}$, $S \cap \{x_1 = 0\} = 0$, and hence $S \cap \{x_1 \geq -M\}$ is compact for any M .
- (ii) 0 also belongs to $\partial\Omega_1$ and hence $\Omega_1 \subset B_{R_0}$ for some R_0 .
- (iii) S has a point X_0 in (the interior of) Ω_1 .

In particular some ball $B_\delta(X_0) \subset \Omega_1$. As in [C1] we will study the renormalization of the functions $\varphi_\varepsilon = -\varepsilon(x_1 + 2R_0) + \varphi$ on the set $\{\varphi_\varepsilon < 0\} = S_\varepsilon$.

That is, S_ε has nonempty interior since 0 and $X_0 \in S_\varepsilon$ and, therefore, by an affine transformation we may obtain sets S_ε^* and graphs φ_ε^* such that $B_1 \subset S_\varepsilon^* \subset B_n$.

$$C_1\chi_{\Omega_1^*} \leq \det D_{ij}\varphi_\varepsilon^* \leq C_2\chi_{\Omega_1^*} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^* \equiv 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial D_\varepsilon^*.$$

Since S_ε converges uniformly to $S \cap \{x_1 > -2R_0\}$, a compact set, S_ε is uniformly bounded for ε small and therefore the affine transformation T_ε that sends S_ε in S_ε^* is an expansion, i.e., $\|T_\varepsilon(X) - T_\varepsilon(Y)\| \geq C|X - Y|$, independently of ε .

In particular $\Omega_1^* = T_\varepsilon(\Omega) \supset T_\varepsilon(B_\delta(X_0)) \supset B_{C_0\delta}(X_0^*)$.

As in [C1] we now will get a contradiction by showing that both φ_ε^* stays close to its infimum near ∂S_ε^* , and cannot do so.

On one hand, from Alexandrov estimate,

$$|\varphi_\varepsilon^*(X)|^n \leq \text{dist}(X, \partial S_\varepsilon^*) \text{ Total mass} (\det D_{ij}\varphi_\varepsilon^*) \leq Cd(X, \partial S_\varepsilon^*)$$

since $\det D_{ij}\varphi^*$ is bounded.

On the other hand, consider $S_{\varepsilon, \delta/2}^* = \{X \in S_\varepsilon^* | d(X, \partial S_\varepsilon^*) \geq C_0\delta/2\}$.

There, $|\nabla\varphi| \leq \frac{C}{\delta} |\inf_{S_\varepsilon^*} \varphi|$. But

$$|B_{C_0\delta}(X_0^*) \cap S_{\varepsilon, \delta/2}^*| \sim C\delta^n.$$

Hence

$$\text{Volume}\{\nabla\varphi(S_{\varepsilon, \delta/2}^*)\} = \int_{S_{\varepsilon, \delta/2}^*} \det D_{ij}\varphi \, dX \geq C\delta^n.$$

Hence $\sup_{S_{\varepsilon, \delta/2}^*} |\nabla\varphi| \geq C\delta$ and

$$|\inf_{S_\varepsilon^*} \varphi_\varepsilon^*| \geq C\delta^2.$$

Finally, we look at $T_\varepsilon(0)$.

On one side $T_\varepsilon(0)$ converges to ∂S_ε^* when ε goes to zero since the opposite supporting planes of S_ε , $\{x_1 = -A_\varepsilon\}\{x_1 = B_\varepsilon\}$, remain uniformly separate (since they enclose X_0 and 0) and B_ε tends to zero since S_ε converges to S .

On the other, the ratio

$$\frac{\varphi_\varepsilon^*(0^*)}{\inf_{S_\varepsilon^*} \varphi_\varepsilon^*} = \frac{\varphi_\varepsilon(0)}{\inf_{S_\varepsilon} \varphi_\varepsilon}$$

converges to one since

$$\begin{aligned} |\inf_{S_\varepsilon} \varphi_\varepsilon| &\leq \sup_{x_1 \in S_\varepsilon} \varepsilon(x_1 + 2R_0), \\ \varphi_\varepsilon(0) &= -2\varepsilon R_0 \end{aligned}$$

and $\sup_{x_1 \in S_\varepsilon} x_1$ goes to zero when S_ε converges to S .

The proof of the theorem is now complete. \square

REFERENCES

- [B] Yann Brenier, *Décomposition polaire et réarrangement monotone des champs de vecteurs*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Sér. I. Math. **305** (1987), 805–808.
- [C1] Luis A. Caffarelli, *A localization property of viscosity solutions to the Monge-Ampère equation and their strict convexity*, Ann. of Math. (2) **131** (1990), 129–134.
- [C2] —, *Interior $W^{2,p}$ estimates for solutions of the Monge-Ampère equation*, Ann. of Math. (2) **131** (1990), 135–150.
- [C3] —, *Some regularity properties of solutions to Monge Ampère equation*, Comm. Pure Appl. Math. (to appear).
- [P] A. V. Pogorelov, *Monge-Ampère equations of elliptic type*, Noordhoff, Groningen, 1964.

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540