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The geometric Sobolev embedding for vector fields and the isoperimetric inequality.

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The authors prove a generalization of the usual Sobolev inequalities. Instead of the standard gradient, they consider a family χ of vector fields. There corresponds to χ a metric $d_\chi(x, y)$ and this in turn defines the “generalized” balls $B(x, r)$. With everything defined as one would expect, the authors then make two assumptions: Let $U \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ be a bounded set and suppose there exist constants C_1, C_2 , and R_0 such that, whenever $R \leq R_0$ and $x \in U$, then (A) $|B(x, 2R)| \leq C_1|B(x, R)|$, and

$$(B) \quad |u(y)| \leq C_2 \int_{B(x,R)} |D_\chi u(\xi)| \frac{d_\chi(y, \xi)}{|B(y, d_\chi(y, \xi))|} d\xi.$$

This paper gives concrete situations where these assumptions can be verified.

Theorem 1.1: Assume (A) and (B); then

$$\left(\frac{1}{|B_R|} \int_{B_R} |u|^k dx \right)^{1/k} \leq C_3 R \left(\frac{1}{|B_R|} \int_{B_R} |D_\chi u| dx \right),$$

where $1 \leq k \leq Q/(Q-1)$, while $Q = (\log C_1)/(\log 2)$.

A standard transformation now produces the fully decorated Sobolev inequalities. The method of proof involves first establishing a suitable isoperimetric inequality. For the classical Sobolev inequalities the use of the isoperimetric inequality goes back to G. Talenti [Ann. Mat. Pura Appl. (4) **110** (1976), 353–372; MR **57** #3846], and in fact well before that—at least to the early sixties (in unpublished notes by Eugene Rodemich).
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