

**THE BEST CONSTANT OF  $L^p$  SOBOLEV INEQUALITY  
CORRESPONDING TO DIRICHLET BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM  
FOR  $(d/dx)^{4m}$**

YORIMASA OSHIME\*, YOSHINORI KAMETAKA† AND HIROYUKI YAMAGISHI‡

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ABSTRACT. For  $M = 2m$  ( $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) and  $p > 1$ , the best constant of  $L^p$  Sobolev inequality

$$\sup_{|y| \leq 1} |u(y)| \leq C \left( \int_{-1}^1 |u^{(M)}(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

for  $u(x)$  satisfying  $u(x), u^{(M)}(x) \in L^p(-1, 1)$  and  $u^{(2i)}(\pm 1) = 0$  ( $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$ ) is obtained. The best constant is the  $L^q$  norm ( $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ) of some special polynomial relating to Bernoulli polynomial of order  $M$ . The special case of  $p = 2$  is treated completely in [1].

## 1 Conclusion

In this paper  $M = 2m$  ( $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) is an even natural number.  $p > 1$  is a real number and its conjugate  $q > 1$  satisfies  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ .

For function  $u(x)$  on an interval  $-1 < x < 1$ , we use notations

$$\|u\|_\infty = \sup_{|y| \leq 1} |u(y)|, \quad \|u\|_p = \left( \int_{-1}^1 |u(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

We introduce Sobolev space

$$H = H(M) = \left\{ u(x) \left| \begin{array}{l} u(x), u^{(M)}(x) \in L^p(-1, 1), \\ u^{(2i)}(\pm 1) = 0 \quad (0 \leq i \leq m - 1) \end{array} \right. \right\} \quad (1.1)$$

and its conjugate

$$H^* = H^*(M) = \left\{ v(x) \left| \begin{array}{l} v(x), v^{(M)}(x) \in L^q(-1, 1), \\ v^{(2j)}(\pm 1) = 0 \quad (m \leq j \leq M - 1) \end{array} \right. \right\} \quad (1.2)$$

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Sobolev energy form

$$(u, v)_M = \int_{-1}^1 u^{(M)}(x) \bar{v}^{(M)}(x) dx \quad (1.3)$$

for  $u \in H$  and  $v \in H^*$ , and Sobolev functional

$$S(u) = S(M; u) = \|u\|_\infty / \|u^{(M)}\|_p \quad (1.4)$$

for  $u \in H$ .

Throughout this paper Bernoulli polynomials  $b_n(x)$  defined by the relation

$$\begin{cases} b_0(x) = 1 \\ b'_n(x) = b_{n-1}(x), \quad \int_0^1 b_n(x) dx = 0 \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots) \end{cases}$$

play an important role.

$$\begin{aligned} b_0(x) &= 1, & b_1(x) &= x - \frac{1}{2}, & b_2(x) &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{12}, \\ b_3(x) &= \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{4}x^2 + \frac{1}{12}x, & b_4(x) &= \frac{1}{24}x^4 - \frac{1}{12}x^3 + \frac{1}{24}x^2 - \frac{1}{720}, \\ b_5(x) &= \frac{1}{120}x^5 - \frac{1}{48}x^4 + \frac{1}{72}x^3 - \frac{1}{720}x, \\ b_6(x) &= \frac{1}{720}x^6 - \frac{1}{240}x^5 + \frac{1}{288}x^4 - \frac{1}{1440}x^2 + \frac{1}{30240}, \\ b_7(x) &= \frac{1}{5040}x^7 - \frac{1}{1440}x^6 + \frac{1}{1440}x^5 - \frac{1}{4320}x^3 + \frac{1}{30240}x, \\ b_8(x) &= \frac{1}{40320}x^8 - \frac{1}{10080}x^7 + \frac{1}{8640}x^6 - \frac{1}{17280}x^4 + \frac{1}{60480}x^2 - \frac{1}{1209600} \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

Our conclusion is as follows.

**Theorem 1.1** *Using Green function*

$$\begin{aligned} G(x, y) = G(M; x, y) &= (-1)^{M+1} 4^{2M-1} \left[ b_{2M} \left( \frac{|x-y|}{4} \right) - b_{2M} \left( \frac{2-x-y}{4} \right) \right] \\ &(-1 < x, y < 1) \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

which will be explained later in Theorem 2.1, we can assert

(1)  $\sup_{u \in H, u \neq 0} S(u) = C_0$  is given by

$$C_0 = C(M) = \left\| \left( \partial_x^M G(M; x, y) \right) \Big|_{y=0} \right\|_q = \| G(m; x, 0) \|_q = \left\| 4^{M-1} \left[ b_M \left( \frac{|x|}{4} \right) - b_M \left( \frac{2-x}{4} \right) \right] \right\|_q \tag{1.6}$$

$$C(2) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{2}{q+1} \right)^{1/q}, \quad C(4) = \frac{1}{12} \| 2 - 3x^2 + |x|^3 \|_q$$

$$C(6) = \frac{1}{240} \| 16 - 20x^2 + 5x^4 - |x|^5 \|_q$$

$$C(8) = \frac{1}{10080} \| 272 - 336x^2 + 70x^4 - 7x^6 + |x|^7 \|_q, \quad \dots$$

(2)  $S(U(x)) = C_0$  (1.7)

where

$$U(x) = \int_{-1}^1 G(m; x, y) \left( G(m; y, 0) \right)^{q-1} dy \quad (-1 < x < 1) \tag{1.8}$$

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we consider a boundary value problem for  $(-1)^M (d/dx)^{2M}$  with Dirichlet boundary condition. In section 3, we show that Green function  $G(x, y)$  is a reproducing kernel for  $H, H^*$  and  $(\cdot, \cdot)_M$ . Finally, section 4 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.1.

## 2 Dirichlet boundary value problem

In the previous work [1], we proved the following two theorems.

**Theorem 2.1** For any bounded continuous function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $-1 < x < 1$ , Dirichlet boundary value problem

$$\text{BVP } (M)$$

$$\begin{cases} (-1)^M u^{(2M)} = f(x) & (-1 < x < 1) \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

$$\begin{cases} u^{(2i)}(\pm 1) = 0 & (0 \leq i \leq M-1) \end{cases} \tag{2.2}$$

has a unique classical solution  $u(x)$  expressed as follows.

$$u(x) = \int_{-1}^1 G(x, y) f(y) dy \quad (-1 < x < 1) \tag{2.3}$$

Green function  $G(x, y) = G(M; x, y)$  is given by (1.5).

**Theorem 2.2** *Green function  $G(x, y) = G(M; x, y)$  satisfies the following conditions.*

$$(1) \quad \partial_x^{2M} G(x, y) = 0 \quad (-1 < x, y < 1, \quad x \neq y) \tag{2.4}$$

$$(2) \quad \partial_x^{2i} G(x, y) \Big|_{x=\pm 1} = 0 \quad (0 \leq i \leq M-1, \quad -1 < y < 1) \tag{2.5}$$

$$(3) \quad \partial_x^i G(x, y) \Big|_{y=x-0} - \partial_x^i G(x, y) \Big|_{y=x+0} = \begin{cases} 0 & (0 \leq i \leq 2M-2) \\ (-1)^M & (i = 2M-1) \end{cases} \quad (-1 < x < 1) \tag{2.6}$$

$$(4) \quad \partial_x^i G(x, y) \Big|_{x=y+0} - \partial_x^i G(x, y) \Big|_{x=y-0} = \begin{cases} 0 & (0 \leq i \leq 2M-2) \\ (-1)^M & (i = 2M-1) \end{cases} \quad (-1 < y < 1) \tag{2.7}$$

$$(5) \quad G(M; x, y) > 0 \quad (-1 < x, y < 1) \tag{2.8}$$

Differentiating  $G(x, y)$  with respect to  $x$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x^i G(x, y) = & \\ & (-1)^{M+1} 4^{2M-1-i} \left[ \left( \operatorname{sgn}(x-y) \right)^i b_{2M-i} \left( \frac{|x-y|}{4} \right) - (-1)^i b_{2M-i} \left( \frac{2-x-y}{4} \right) \right] \\ & (-1 < x, y < 1, \quad x \neq y, \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2M) \end{aligned}$$

Putting  $i = M = 2m$  we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.1**

$$\partial_x^M G(M; x, y) = (-1)^m G(m; x, y) \quad (-1 < x, y < 1, \quad x \neq y) \tag{2.9}$$

**3 Reproducing kernel**

For the sake of convenience, we use the notation

$$\begin{aligned} g(x, y) = G(m; x, y) = (-1)^m \partial_x^M G(M; x, y) = \beta \left( \frac{|x-y|}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2-x-y}{4} \right) \\ (-1 < x, y < 1) \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where

$$\beta(x) = (-1)^{m+1} 4^{M-1} b_M(x) \quad (0 < x < 1) \tag{3.2}$$

Green function  $G(x, y)$  is a reproducing kernel for  $H, H^*$  and  $(\cdot, \cdot)_M$ .

**Theorem 3.1** *For any fixed  $y$  ( $-1 \leq y \leq 1$ )  $G(x, y) = G(M; x, y)$  belongs to  $H^*$ . For any  $u(x) \in H$ , we have the following reproducing relation.*

$$\begin{aligned} u(y) = (u(x), G(x, y))_M = \int_{-1}^1 u^{(M)}(x) \partial_x^M G(M; x, y) dx = \\ \int_{-1}^1 u^{(M)}(x) (-1)^m g(x, y) dx \quad (-1 \leq y \leq 1) \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

**Proof of Theorem 3.1** For functions  $u = u(x)$  and  $v = v(x) = G(x, y)$  with  $y$  arbitrarily fixed in  $-1 \leq y \leq 1$ , we have

$$u^{(M)} v^{(M)} - u (-1)^M v^{(2M)} = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} (-1)^{M-1-j} u^{(j)} v^{(2M-1-j)} \right)'$$

Integrating this with respect to  $x$  on intervals  $-1 < x < y$  and  $y < x < 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-1}^1 u^{(M)}(x) v^{(M)}(x) dx - \int_{-1}^1 u(x) (-1)^M v^{(2M)}(x) dx = \\ & \left[ \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} (-1)^{M-1-j} u^{(j)}(x) v^{(2M-1-j)}(x) \right] \left\{ \left[ \begin{matrix} x=y-0 \\ x=-1 \end{matrix} \right] + \left[ \begin{matrix} x=1 \\ x=y+0 \end{matrix} \right] \right\} = \\ & \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} (-1)^{M-1-j} \left[ u^{(j)}(1) v^{(2M-1-j)}(1) - u^{(j)}(-1) v^{(2M-1-j)}(-1) \right] + \\ & \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} (-1)^{M-1-j} u^{(j)}(y) \left[ v^{(2M-1-j)}(y-0) - v^{(2M-1-j)}(y+0) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The first term on the right-hand side is rewritten as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} (-1)^{M-1-j} \left[ u^{(j)}(1) v^{(2M-1-j)}(1) - u^{(j)}(-1) v^{(2M-1-j)}(-1) \right] = \\ & \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (-1)^{M-1} \left[ u^{(2j)}(1) v^{(2(M-1-j)+1)}(1) - u^{(2j)}(-1) v^{(2(M-1-j)+1)}(-1) \right] + \\ & \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (-1)^M \left[ u^{(2j+1)}(1) v^{(2(M-1-j))}(1) - u^{(2j+1)}(-1) v^{(2(M-1-j))}(-1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.4), (2.5), (2.7) and (2.9), we have (3.3). ■

#### 4 $L^p$ Sobolev inequality

The most delicate point of this paper is the following theorem.

##### Theorem 4.1

$$\sup_{|y| \leq 1} \|g(\cdot, y)\|_q = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \tag{4.1}$$

We will prove this later and will prove our main theorem using this.

**Proof of Theorem 1.1** Applying Hölder inequality to the reproducing identity (3.3), we have the following inequality

$$\|u\|_\infty \leq \sup_{|y| \leq 1} \|g(\cdot, y)\|_q \left\| u^{(M)} \right\|_p = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \left\| u^{(M)} \right\|_p \tag{4.2}$$

Now we will show that the equality holds for special  $u(x)$ . For the function

$$f(x) = g^{q-1}(x, 0) \quad (-1 < x < 1) \tag{4.3}$$

Dirichlet boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} (-1)^m u^{(2m)} = f(x) & (-1 < x < 1) \\ u^{(2i)}(\pm 1) = 0 & (0 \leq i \leq m-1) \end{cases} \tag{4.4}$$

has a unique classical solution  $u(x) = U(x)$  expressed as follows.

$$U(x) = \int_{-1}^1 g(x, y) f(y) dy \quad (-1 < x < 1) \tag{4.6}$$

This is the same as (1.8). Applying the inequality (4.2) to  $u(x) = U(x) \in H$  and have

$$\|U\|_\infty \leq \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \left\| U^{(M)} \right\|_p = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \|g^{q-1}(\cdot, 0)\|_p = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^q \tag{4.7}$$

We used a fact  $\|g^{q-1}(\cdot, 0)\|_p = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^{q-1}$ . On the other hand, we have

$$U(0) = \int_{-1}^1 g(0, y) f(y) dy = \int_{-1}^1 g(y, 0) (g(y, 0))^{q-1} dy = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^q \tag{4.8}$$

Combining (4.7) and trivial inequality  $\|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^q = |U(0)| \leq \|U\|_\infty$ , we have

$$\|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^q = |U(0)| \leq \|U\|_\infty \leq \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \left\| U^{(M)} \right\|_p = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q^q \tag{4.9}$$

That is to say

$$\|U\|_\infty = \|g(\cdot, 0)\|_q \left\| U^{(M)} \right\|_p \tag{4.10}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1. ■

To prove Theorem 4.1, we need the following lemma concerning Bernoulli polynomial.

**Lemma 4.1** *Bernoulli polynomial*

$$\beta(x) = (-1)^{m+1} 4^{M-1} b_M(x) \quad (0 < x < 1) \tag{4.11}$$

satisfies the following properties.

(1)  $\beta(1/2 - x) = \beta(1/2 + x) \quad (0 \leq x \leq 1/2)$  (4.12)

(2)  $\beta'(x) < 0 \quad (0 < x < 1/2)$  (4.13)

(3)  $\beta(0) = (-1)^{m+1} 4^{M-1} b_M(0) = 2^{M-1} \pi^{-M} \zeta(M) > 0$  (4.14)

(4)  $\beta(1/2) = (-1)^{m+1} 4^{M-1} b_M(1/2) = -(-1)^{m+1} 2^{M-1} (2^{M-1} - 1) b_M(0) = - (2^{M-1} - 1) \pi^{-M} \zeta(M) < 0$  (4.15)

(5)  $|\beta(0)| > |\beta(1/2)|$  (4.16)

where  $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty n^{-s}$  ( $\text{Re } s > 1$ ) is Riemann zeta function.

We omit to proof this lemma. (See [1] or [2]).

Now we proceed to prove Theorem 4.1.

**Proof of Theorem 4.1** First of all, we note the important fact

$$g(x, y) > 0 \quad (-1 < x, y < 1) \tag{4.17}$$

by Theorem 2.2 (5).  $\|g(\cdot, y)\|_q$  is an even function of  $y$  because of the symmetry

$$g(-x, -y) = g(x, y) \quad (-1 < x, y < 1) \tag{4.18}$$

It is enough to show

$$h(y) = -\frac{2}{q} \frac{d}{dy} \|g(\cdot, y)\|_q^q > 0 \quad (0 < y < 1) \tag{4.19}$$

Using simple facts

$$(\partial_x - \partial_y) g(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{sgn}(x - y) \beta' \left( \frac{|x - y|}{4} \right) \quad (-1 < x, y < 1, \quad x \neq y) \tag{4.20}$$

and

$$\int_{-1}^1 \partial_x (g^q(x, y)) dx = 0 \quad (-1 < y < 1) \tag{4.21}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} h(y) &= -\frac{2}{q} \partial_y \int_{-1}^1 g^q(x, y) dx = -2 \int_{-1}^1 g^{q-1}(x, y) \partial_y g(x, y) dx = \\ &= -2 \int_{-1}^1 g^{q-1}(x, y) \partial_x g(x, y) dx + \int_{-1}^1 g^{q-1}(x, y) \operatorname{sgn}(x - y) \beta' \left( \frac{|x - y|}{4} \right) dx = \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 \operatorname{sgn}(x - y) \beta' \left( \frac{|x - y|}{4} \right) \left[ \beta \left( \frac{|x - y|}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2 - x - y}{4} \right) \right]^{q-1} dx = \\ &= \int_{-1}^y -\beta' \left( \frac{y - x}{4} \right) \left[ \beta \left( \frac{y - x}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2 - x - y}{4} \right) \right]^{q-1} dx + \\ &= \int_y^1 \beta' \left( \frac{x - y}{4} \right) \left[ \beta \left( \frac{x - y}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2 - x - y}{4} \right) \right]^{q-1} dx = \\ &= \int_0^{1+y} \left( -\beta' \left( \frac{\xi}{4} \right) \right) \left[ \beta \left( \frac{\xi}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2 - 2y + \xi}{4} \right) \right]^{q-1} d\xi - \\ &= \int_0^{1-y} \left( -\beta' \left( \frac{\xi}{4} \right) \right) \left[ \beta \left( \frac{\xi}{4} \right) - \beta \left( \frac{2 - 2y - \xi}{4} \right) \right]^{q-1} d\xi \quad (0 < y < 1) \end{aligned} \tag{4.22}$$

Here we divide  $h(y)$  into the two parts

$$h(y) = h_0(y) + h_1(y) \quad (0 < y < 1) \tag{4.23}$$

where

$$h_0(y) = \int_{1-y}^{1+y} \left(-\beta'\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right)\right) \left[\beta\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right) - \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right)\right]^{q-1} d\xi \tag{4.24}$$

$$h_1(y) = \int_0^{1-y} \left(-\beta'\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right)\right) \left[ \left[\beta\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right) - \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right)\right]^{q-1} - \left[\beta\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right) - \beta\left(\frac{2-2y-\xi}{4}\right)\right]^{q-1} \right] d\xi \tag{4.25}$$

For  $0 < 1 - y < \xi < 1 + y < 2$  we have  $0 < \xi/4 < 1/2$ . From the inequality (4.17), it follows the inequality

$$\beta\left(\frac{\xi}{4}\right) - \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right) > 0 \quad (0 < \xi/4 < 1/2, \quad 0 < y < 1) \tag{4.26}$$

We also have

$$-\beta'(\xi/4) > 0 \quad (0 < \xi/4 < 1/2) \tag{4.27}$$

from Lemma 4.1 (2). From these two inequalities it follows  $h_0(y) > 0$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ).

An inequality  $h_1(y) > 0$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ) follows from the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.2** *For every fixed  $y$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ) we have*

$$\beta\left(\frac{2-2y-\xi}{4}\right) > \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right) \quad (0 < \xi < 1 - y) \tag{4.28}$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.2** For every fixed  $y$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ), we treat the first case  $0 < \xi < (2y) \wedge (1 - y)$ . It follows

$$0 < \frac{2-2y-\xi}{4} < \frac{2-2y+\xi}{4} < \frac{1}{2}$$

so we have

$$\beta\left(\frac{2-2y-\xi}{4}\right) > \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right) \quad (0 < \xi < (2y) \wedge (1 - y))$$

by Lemma 4.1 (2).

In the second case  $(2y) \wedge (1 - y) < \xi < 1 - y$ , we have  $(2y) \leq \xi < 1 - y$ , hence

$$0 < \frac{2-2y-\xi}{4} < \frac{2+2y-\xi}{4} < \frac{1}{2}$$

By Lemma 4.1 (2), it follows

$$\beta\left(\frac{2-2y-\xi}{4}\right) > \beta\left(\frac{2+2y-\xi}{4}\right) = \beta\left(\frac{2-2y+\xi}{4}\right) \quad ((2y) \wedge (1 - y) < \xi < 1 - y)$$

The last equality follows from Lemma 4.1 (1). This completes the proof of Lemma 4.2. ■

From Lemma 4.2, it follows  $h_1(y) > 0$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ). We proved  $h(y) > 0$  ( $0 < y < 1$ ). This completes the proof of Theorem 4.1. ■



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\* Faculty of Engineering, Doshisha University  
Kyotanabe 610-0321, Japan  
E-mail address: yoshime@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

† He has retired at March 2004, and now he is an emeritus professor of Osaka University.  
Faculty of Engineering Science, Osaka University  
1-3 Matikaneyamatyo, Toyonaka 560-8531, Japan  
E-mail address: kametaka@sigmath.es.osaka-u.ac.jp

‡ Faculty of Engineering Science, Osaka University  
1-3 Matikaneyamatyo, Toyonaka 560-8531, Japan  
E-mail address: yamagisi@sigmath.es.osaka-u.ac.jp