

Classics in Mathematics

Charles B. Morrey, Jr.

Multiple Integrals
in the Calculus of Variations

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Reprint of the 1966 Edition

 Springer

Originally published as Vol. 130 of the series *Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften*

ISBN 978-3-540-69915-6

e-ISBN 978-3-540-69952-1

DOI 10.1007/978-3-540-69952-1

Classics in Mathematics ISSN 1431-0821

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008932928

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000): 49-xx, 58Exx, 35N15, 46E35, 46E39

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Cover design: WMXDesign GmbH, Heidelberg

Printed on acid-free paper

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Die Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften

in Einzeldarstellungen
mit besonderer Berücksichtigung
der Anwendungsgebiete

Band 130

Herausgegeben von

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Geschäftsführende Herausgeber

B. Eckmann und B. L. van der Waerden

Multiple Integrals in the Calculus of Variations

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Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York 1966

Geschäftsführende Herausgeber:

Prof. Dr. B. Eckmann
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

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Mathematisches Institut der Universität Zürich

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 66-24 365

Printed in Germany

Preface

The principal theme of this book is “the existence and differentiability of the solutions of variational problems involving multiple integrals.” We shall discuss the corresponding questions for single integrals only very briefly since these have been discussed adequately in every other book on the calculus of variations. Moreover, applications to engineering, physics, etc., are not discussed at all; however, we do discuss *mathematical* applications to such subjects as the theory of harmonic integrals and the so-called “ $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann” problem (see Chapters 7 and 8). Since the plan of the book is described in Section 1.2 below we shall merely make a few observations here.

In order to study the questions mentioned above it is necessary to use some very elementary theorems about convex functions and operators on Banach and Hilbert spaces and some special function spaces, now known as “SOBOLEV spaces”. However, most of the facts which we use concerning these spaces were known before the war when a different terminology was used (see CALKIN and MORREY [5]); but we have included some powerful new results due to CALDERON in our exposition in Chapter 3. The definitions of these spaces and some of the proofs have been made simpler by using the most elementary ideas of distribution theory; however, almost no other use has been made of that theory and no knowledge of that theory is required in order to read this book. Of course we have found it necessary to develop the theory of linear elliptic systems at some length in order to present our desired differentiability results. We found it particularly essential to consider “weak solutions” of such systems in which we were often forced to allow discontinuous coefficients; in this connection, we include an exposition of the DE GIORGI—NASH—MOSER results. And we include in Chapter 6 a proof of the analyticity of the solutions (on the interior and at the boundary) of the most general non-linear analytic elliptic system with general regular (as in AGMON, DOUGLIS, and NIRENBERG) boundary conditions. But we confine ourselves to functions which are analytic, of class C^∞ , of class C_μ^n or C^n (see § 1.2), or in some Sobolev space H_p^m with m an integer ≥ 0 (except in Chapter 9). These latter spaces have been

defined for all real m in a domain (or manifold) or on its boundary and have been used by many authors in their studies of linear systems. We have not included a study of these spaces since (i) this book is already sufficiently long, (ii) we took no part in this development, and (iii) these spaces are adequately discussed in other *books* (see A. FRIEDMAN [2], HORMANDER [1], LIONS [2]) as well as in many papers (see § 1.8 and papers by LIONS and MAGENES).

The research of the author which is reported on in this book has been partially supported for several years by the Office of Naval Research under contract Nonr 222(62) and was partially supported during the year 1961–62, while the author was in France, by the National Science Foundation under the grant G–19782.

Berkeley, August 1966

CHARLES B. MORREY, JR.

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