
SEMINAR
on
COMPLEX AND HYPERCOMPLEX ANALYSIS

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An existence theory for nonlinear equations on
metric graphs

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The purpose of this talk is to develop a general existence theory for constrained minimization problems for functionals defined on function spaces on metric measure spaces (M, d, μ) . We apply this theory to functionals defined on metric graphs G , in particular L^2 -constrained minimization problems of the form

$$E(u) = \frac{1}{2}a(u, u) - \frac{1}{q} \int_K |u|^q dx,$$

where $q > 2$ and $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a suitable symmetric, sesquilinear form on some function space on G and $K \subset G$ is given. We show how the existence of solutions can be obtained via decomposition methods using spectral properties of the operator A associated with the form $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ and discuss the spectral quantities involved. An example that we consider is the higher-order variant of the stationary NLS (nonlinear Schrödinger) energy functional with potential $V \in L^2 + L^\infty(G)$

$$E^{(k)}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_G |u(k)|^2 + V(x)|u|^2 dx - \frac{1}{q} \int_K |u|^q dx,$$

defined on a class of higher-order Sobolev spaces $H^k(G)$ that we introduce. When K is a bounded subgraph, one has localized nonlinearities, which we treat as a special case. When $k = 1$ we also consider metric graphs with infinite edge set as well as magnetic potentials. Then the operator A associated to the linear form is a Schrödinger operator, and in the L^2 -subcritical case $2 < q < 6$, we obtain generalizations of existence results for the NLS functional as for instance obtained by Adami, Serra and Tilli [JFA 271 (2016), 201-223], and Cacciapuoti, Finco and Noja [Nonlinearity 30 (2017), 3271-3303], among others.

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