

Higher differentiability and regularity for minimizers of convex multiple integrals

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We consider multiple integrals with convex integrand satisfying (p, q) growth conditions. Namely we deal with functionals of the form

$$\mathcal{I}(v, \Omega) = \int_{\Omega} F(Dv(x)) \, dx$$

where Ω is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n and $v: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ is a suitable map. Here we are concerned with the multi-dimensional cases $n, N \geq 2$ and with integrands $F: \mathbb{R}^{N \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying, for exponents $q \geq p \geq 2$ and positive constants L, c , the following hypotheses:

$$0 \leq F(\xi) \leq L(1 + |\xi|^q) \tag{H1}$$

and

$$\langle D^2F(\xi)\eta, \eta \rangle \geq c(1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}} |\eta|^2 \tag{H2}$$

for all $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$.

We prove higher differentiability results for bounded local minimizers of the functional \mathcal{I} , and for not a priori bounded local minimizers in the case $p \geq n - 2$, under dimensionless conditions on the gap between the growth and coercivity exponents.