

Theorem 1.1.8 Let $\xi_t, t \in [0, 1]$ be a smooth family of contact structures on a $(2n+1)$ -dimensional closed manifold M and B a closed contact submanifold for all ξ_t . Then there is an isotopy Ψ_t of M satisfying $(\Psi_t)^* \xi_0 = \xi_1$ that leaves B invariant. If moreover $\xi_t \cap TB = \xi_0 \cap TB \forall t$, then Ψ_t may be chosen to fix B pointwise.

Proof Let α_t be a smooth family of contact forms with $\ker \alpha_t = \xi_t$. Assume Ψ_t is the time-dependent flow of the time-dependent VF $X_t \in \mathcal{X}(M)$. Since M compact, the flow will exist for all time.

X_t can be uniquely decomposed $X_t = H_t R_t + Y_t$ where $H_t \in C^\infty M$, R_t the Reeb VF of α_t , $Y_t \in \xi_t$.

$(\Psi_t)^* \xi_0 = \xi_1$ is satisfied if $\exists \lambda_t \in C^\infty M$ s.t. $\Psi_t^* \alpha_t = \lambda_t \alpha_0$. Differentiating, we get

$$\Psi_t^*(\mu_t \alpha_t) = \frac{\dot{\lambda}_t}{\lambda_t} \lambda_t \alpha_0 = \dot{\lambda}_t \alpha_0 = \Psi_t^*(\dot{\alpha}_t + dH_t + i_{Y_t} d\alpha_t)$$

where $\mu_t = \left(\frac{d}{dt} \ln(\lambda_t) \right) \circ \Psi_t^{-1}$

Hence we solve $\dot{\alpha}_t + dH_t + i_{Y_t} d\alpha_t = \mu_t \alpha_t$ for Y_t, μ_t, H_t . Notice, given any H_t , we can uniquely solve for Y_t, μ_t . In the first part we find H_t s.t. Y_t is tangent to B .

Looking at the contact submfd B , we can solve the equation $\dot{\alpha}_t|_{TB} + d\tilde{H}_t + i_{\tilde{Y}_t} (d\alpha_t|_{TB}) = \tilde{\mu}_t \alpha_t|_{TB}$ by choosing $\tilde{H}_t \equiv 0$. From this $\tilde{Y}_t, \tilde{\mu}_t$ are defined. Define $\tilde{\alpha}_t = \dot{\alpha}_t + i_{\tilde{Y}_t} (d\alpha_t) - \tilde{\mu}_t \alpha_t : TM|_B \rightarrow C^\infty B$.

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Lemma Let B be a closed submfd of M and $\alpha \in \Omega^1 M$ s.t. $\alpha|_{TB} = 0$. Then $\exists f \in C^\infty M$ s.t. $df|_{TM|_B} \equiv \alpha|_{TM|_B}$.

Hence we find H_t s.t. $H_t|_B = 0$, $dH_t|_{TM|_B} = -\tilde{\alpha}_t$.
From this we get our solutions Y_t, μ_t and we see that $Y_t \equiv \tilde{Y}_t$ along B , so Y_t tangent to B .

If we moreover assume $\xi_t \cap TB = \xi_0 \cap TB \forall t$, then $\alpha_t|_{TB} = \eta_t \alpha_0|_{TB}$ for $\eta_t \in C^\infty B$. Then $\dot{\alpha}_t|_{TB} + i_{\tilde{Y}_t}(d\alpha_t|_{TB}) = \tilde{\mu}_t \alpha_t|_{TB}$ has solution $\tilde{\mu}_t = \frac{\dot{\eta}_t}{\eta_t}$, $\tilde{Y}_t = 0$, hence X_t fixes B ($H_t|_B = 0$, $Y_t|_B = 0 \Rightarrow X_t = 0$). \square