

§1. SMOOTH MANIFOLDS AND SMOOTH MAPS

FIRST let us explain some of our terms. R^k denotes the k -dimensional euclidean space; thus a point $x \in R^k$ is an k -tuple $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ of real numbers.

Let $U \subset R^k$ and $V \subset R^l$ be open sets. A mapping f from U to V (written $f: U \rightarrow V$) is called *smooth* if all of the partial derivatives $\partial f / \partial x_i, \dots, \partial x_k$, exist and are continuous.

More generally let $X \subset R^k$ and $Y \subset R^l$ be arbitrary subsets of euclidean spaces. A map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is called *smooth* if for each $x \in X$ there exist an open set $U \subset R^k$ containing x and a smooth mapping $F: U \rightarrow R^l$ that coincides with f throughout $U \cap X$.

If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ and $g: Y \rightarrow Z$ are smooth, note that the composition $g \circ f: X \rightarrow Z$ is also smooth. The identity map of any set X is automatically smooth.

DEFINITION. A map $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is called a *diffeomorphism* if f carries X homeomorphically onto Y and if both f and f^{-1} are smooth.

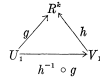
We can now indicate roughly what *differential topology* is about by saying that it studies those properties of a set $X \subset R^k$ which are invariant under diffeomorphism.

We do not, however, want to look at completely arbitrary sets X . The following definition singles out a particularly attractive and useful class.

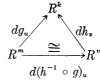
DEFINITION. A subset $M \subset R^k$ is called a *smooth manifold of dimension m* if each $x \in M$ has a neighborhood $W \cap M$ that is diffeomorphic to an open subset U of the euclidean space R^m .

Any particular diffeomorphism $g: U \rightarrow W \cap M$ is called a *parametrization* of the region $W \cap M$. (The inverse diffeomorphism $W \cap M \rightarrow U$ is called a system of *coordinates* on $W \cap M$.)

ween open sets



es rise to a commutative diagram of linear maps



it follows immediately that

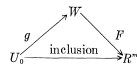
$$\text{Image } (dg_x) = \text{Image } (dh_x).$$

is TM_x is well defined.

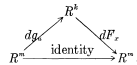
PROOF THAT TM_x IS AN m -DIMENSIONAL VECTOR SPACE. Since

$$g^{-1} \circ g(U) \rightarrow U$$

smooth mapping, we can choose an open set W containing x and smooth map $F: W \rightarrow R^m$ that coincides with g^{-1} on $W \cap g(U)$. ting $U_0 = g^{-1}(W \cap g(U))$, we have the commutative diagram



therefore



s diagram clearly implies that dg_x has rank m , and hence that its ge TM_x has dimension m .

low consider two smooth manifolds, $M \subset R^k$ and $N \subset R^l$, and a

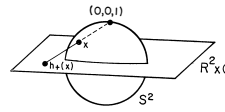


Figure 3. Stereographic projection

hood of the north pole. To see this we introduce the stereographic projection h_- from the south pole $(0, 0, -1)$ and set

$$Q(z) = h_- h_-^{-1}(z).$$

Note, by elementary geometry, that

$$h_- h_-^{-1}(z) = z/|z|^2 = 1/\bar{z}.$$

Now if $P(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$ with $a_0 \neq 0$, then a short computation shows that

$$Q(z) = z^n / (a_n + a_{n-1} z + \dots + a_0 z^n).$$

Thus Q is smooth in a neighborhood of 0, and it follows that $f = h_-^{-1} Q h_-$ is smooth in a neighborhood of $(0, 0, 1)$.

Next observe that f has only a finite number of critical points; for P fails to be a local diffeomorphism only at the zeros of the derivative polynomial $P'(z) = \sum a_{n-j} j z^{j-1}$, and there are only finitely many zeros since P' is not identically zero. The set of regular values of f , being a sphere with finitely many points removed, is therefore connected. Hence the locally constant function $\#f^{-1}(y)$ must actually be constant on this set. Since $\#f^{-1}(y)$ can't be zero everywhere, we conclude that it is zero nowhere. Thus f is an onto mapping, and the polynomial P must have a zero.

EXAMPLE. The unit disk D^n , consisting of all $x \in R^n$ with

$$1 - \sum x_i^2 \geq 0,$$

is a smooth manifold, with boundary equal to S^{n-1} .

Now consider a smooth map $f: X \rightarrow N$ from an m -manifold with boundary to an n -manifold, where $m > n$.

Lemma 4. If $y \in N$ is a regular value, both for f and for the restriction $f|_{\partial X}$, then $f^{-1}(y) \subset X$ is a smooth $(m - n)$ -manifold with boundary. Furthermore the boundary $\partial(f^{-1}(y))$ is precisely equal to the intersection of $f^{-1}(y)$ with ∂X .

PROOF. Since we have to prove a local property, it suffices to consider the special case of a map $f: H^m \rightarrow R^n$, with regular value $y \in R^n$. Let $\bar{x} \in f^{-1}(y)$. If \bar{x} is an interior point, then as before $f^{-1}(y)$ is a smooth manifold in the neighborhood of \bar{x} .

Suppose that \bar{x} is a boundary point. Choose a smooth map $g: U \rightarrow R^n$ that is defined throughout a neighborhood of \bar{x} in H^m and coincides with f on $U \cap H^m$. Replacing U by a smaller neighborhood if necessary, we may assume that g has no critical points. Hence $g^{-1}(y)$ is a smooth manifold of dimension $m - n$.

Let $\tau: g^{-1}(y) \rightarrow R^n$ denote the coordinate projection,

$$\tau(x_1, \dots, x_m) = x_n.$$

We claim that τ has 0 as a regular value. For the tangent space of $g^{-1}(y)$ at a point $x \in \tau^{-1}(0)$ is equal to the null space of

$$dg_x = d\tau_x: R^m \rightarrow R^n;$$

but the hypothesis that $f|_{\partial H^m}$ is regular at x guarantees that this null space cannot be completely contained in $g^{-1}(y) \times 0$.

Therefore the set $g^{-1}(y) \cap H^m = f^{-1}(y) \cap U$, consisting of all $x \in g^{-1}(y)$ with $\tau(x) \geq 0$, is a smooth manifold, by Lemma 3; with boundary equal to $\tau^{-1}(0)$. This completes the proof.

THE BROUWER FIXED POINT THEOREM

We now apply this result to prove the key lemma leading to the classical Brouwer fixed point theorem. Let X be a compact manifold with boundary.

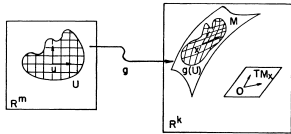


Figure 1. Parametrization of a region in M

Sometimes we will need to look at manifolds of dimension zero. By definition, M is a manifold of dimension zero if each $x \in M$ has a neighborhood $W \cap M$ consisting of x alone.

EXAMPLES. The unit sphere S^2 , consisting of all $(x, y, z) \in R^3$ with $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ is a smooth manifold of dimension 2. In fact the diffeomorphism

$$(x, y) \rightarrow (x, y, \sqrt{1 - x^2 - y^2}),$$

for $x^2 + y^2 < 1$, parametrizes the region $z > 0$ of S^2 . By interchanging the roles of x, y, z , and changing the signs of the variables, we obtain similar parametrizations of the regions $x > 0, y > 0, x < 0, y < 0$, and $z < 0$. Since these cover S^2 , it follows that S^2 is a smooth manifold.

More generally the sphere $S^{n-1} \subset R^n$ consisting of all (x_1, \dots, x_n) with $\sum x_i^2 = 1$ is a smooth manifold of dimension $n - 1$. For example $S^0 \subset R^1$ is a manifold consisting of just two points.

A somewhat wilder example of a smooth manifold is given by the set of all $(x, y) \in R^2$ with $x \neq 0$ and $y = \sin(1/x)$.

TANGENT SPACES AND DERIVATIVES

To define the notion of *derivative* df_x for a smooth map $f: M \rightarrow N$ of smooth manifolds, we first associate with each $x \in M \subset R^k$ a linear subspace $TM_x \subset R^k$ of dimension m called the *tangent space* of M at x . Then df_x will be a linear mapping from TM_x to TN_x , where $y = f(x)$. Elements of the vector space TM_x are called *tangent vectors* to M at x .

Intuitively one thinks of the m -dimensional hyperplane in R^k which best approximates M near x ; then TM_x is the hyperplane through the

smooth map

$$f: M \rightarrow N$$

with $f(x) = y$. The derivative

$$df_x: TM_x \rightarrow TN_y$$

is defined as follows. Since f is smooth there exist an open set W containing x and a smooth map

$$F: W \rightarrow R^l$$

that coincides with f on $W \cap M$. Define $df_x(v)$ to be equal to $dF_x(v)$ for all $v \in TM_x$.

To justify this definition we must prove that $dF_x(v)$ belongs to TN_y and that it does not depend on the particular choice of F .

Choose parametrizations

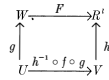
$$g: U \rightarrow M \subset R^k \quad \text{and} \quad h: V \rightarrow N \subset R^l$$

for neighborhoods $g(U)$ of x and $h(V)$ of y . Replacing U by a smaller set if necessary, we may assume that $g(U) \subset W$ and that f maps $g(U)$ into $h(V)$. It follows that

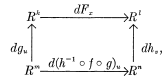
$$h^{-1} \circ f \circ g: U \rightarrow V$$

is a well-defined smooth mapping.

Consider the commutative diagram



of smooth mappings between open sets. Taking derivatives, we obtain a commutative diagram of linear mappings



where $u = g^{-1}(x)$, $v = h^{-1}(y)$.

It follows immediately that dF_x carries $TM_x = \text{Image } (dg_x)$ into $TN_y = \text{Image } (dh_x)$. Furthermore the resulting map df_x does not depend on the particular choice of F , for we can obtain the same linear

§2. THE THEOREM OF SARD AND BROWN

IN GENERAL, it is too much to hope that the set of critical values of a smooth map be finite. But this set will be "small," in the sense indicated by the next theorem, which was proved by A. Sard in 1942 following earlier work by A. P. Morse. (References [30], [24].)

Theorem. Let $f: U \rightarrow R^n$ be a smooth map, defined on an open set $U \subset R^m$, and let

$$C = \{x \in U \mid \text{rank } df_x < n\}.$$

Then the image $f(C) \subset R^n$ has Lebesgue measure zero.*

Since a set of measure zero cannot contain any nonvacuous open set, it follows that the complement $R^n - f(C)$ must be everywhere dense in R^n .

The proof will be given in §3. It is essential for the proof that f should have many derivatives. (Compare Whitney [38].)

We will be mainly interested in the case $m \geq n$. If $m < n$, then clearly $C = U$; hence the theorem says simply that $f(U)$ has measure zero.

More generally consider a smooth map $f: M \rightarrow N$, from a manifold of dimension m to a manifold of dimension n . Let C be the set of all $x \in M$ such that

$$df_x: TM_x \rightarrow TN_{f(x)}$$

* In other words, given any $\epsilon > 0$, it is possible to cover $f(C)$ by a sequence of cubes in R^n having total n -dimensional volume less than ϵ .

† Proved by Arthur B. Brown in 1935. This result was rediscovered by Dubovickii in 1953 and by Thom in 1954. (References [5], [8], [36].)

Lemma 5. There is no smooth map $f: X \rightarrow \partial X$ that leaves ∂X pointwise fixed.

PROOF (following M. Hirsch). Suppose there were such a map f . Let $y \in \partial X$ be a regular value for f . Since y is certainly a regular value for the identity map $f|_{\partial X}$ also, it follows that $f^{-1}(y)$ is a smooth 1-manifold, with boundary consisting of the single point

$$f^{-1}(y) \cap \partial X = \{y\}.$$

But $f^{-1}(y)$ is also compact, and the only compact 1-manifolds are finite disjoint unions of circles and segments,* so that $\partial f^{-1}(y)$ must consist of an even number of points. This contradiction establishes the lemma.

In particular the unit disk

$$D^n = \{x \in R^n \mid x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 \leq 1\}$$

is a compact manifold bounded by the unit sphere S^{n-1} . Hence as a special case we have proved that the identity map of S^{n-1} cannot be extended to a smooth map $D^n \rightarrow S^{n-1}$.

Lemma 6. Any smooth map $g: D^n \rightarrow D^n$ has a fixed point (i.e. a point $x \in D^n$ with $g(x) = x$).

PROOF. Suppose g has no fixed point. For $x \in D^n$, let $f(x) \in S^{n-1}$ be the point nearer x on the line through x and $g(x)$. (See Figure 4.) Then $f: D^n \rightarrow S^{n-1}$ is a smooth map with $f(x) = x$ for $x \in S^{n-1}$, which is impossible by Lemma 5. (To see that f is smooth we make the following explicit computation: $f(x) = x + tu$, where

$$u = \frac{x - g(x)}{\|x - g(x)\|}, \quad t = -x \cdot u + \sqrt{1 - x \cdot x + (x \cdot u)^2},$$

the expression under the square root sign being strictly positive. Here and subsequently $\|x\|$ denotes the euclidean length $\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2}$.)

Brouwer Fixed Point Theorem. Any continuous function $G: D^n \rightarrow D^n$ has a fixed point.

PROOF. We reduce this theorem to the lemma by approximating G by a smooth mapping. Given $\epsilon > 0$, according to the Weierstrass approximation theorem,† there is a polynomial function $P_1: R^n \rightarrow R^n$ with $\|P_1(x) - G(x)\| < \epsilon$ for $x \in D^n$. However, P_1 may send points

* A proof is given in the Appendix.

† See for example Dieudonné [7, p. 133].

origin that is parallel to this. (Compare Figures 1 and 2.) Similarly one thinks of the nonhomogeneous linear mapping from the tangent hyperplane at x to the tangent hyperplane at y which best approximates f . Translating both hyperplanes to the origin, one obtains df_x .

Before giving the actual definition, we must study the special case of mappings between open sets. For any open set $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ the tangent space TU_x is defined to be the entire vector space \mathbb{R}^k . For any smooth map $f: U \rightarrow V$ the derivative

$$df_x: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$$

is defined by the formula

$$df_x(h) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (f(x + th) - f(x))/t$$

for $x \in U$, $h \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Clearly $df_x(h)$ is a linear function of h . (In fact df_x is just that linear mapping which corresponds to the $l \times k$ matrix $(\partial f_i / \partial x_j)_x$ of first partial derivatives, evaluated at x .)

Here are two fundamental properties of the derivative operation:

1 (Chain rule). If $f: U \rightarrow V$ and $g: V \rightarrow W$ are smooth maps, with $f(x) = y$, then

$$d(g \circ f)_x = dg_y \circ df_x.$$

In other words, to every commutative triangle



of smooth maps between open subsets of \mathbb{R}^k , \mathbb{R}^l , \mathbb{R}^m there corresponds a commutative triangle of linear maps



2. If I is the identity map of U , then dI_x is the identity map of \mathbb{R}^k . More generally, if $U \subset U'$ are open sets and

$$i: U \rightarrow U'$$

is the inclusion map, then again d_i is the identity map of \mathbb{R}^k .

Note also:

3. If $L: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ is a linear mapping, then $dL_x = L$.

As a simple application of the two properties one has the following:

Assertion. If f is a diffeomorphism between open sets $U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ and $V \subset \mathbb{R}^l$, then k must equal l , and the linear mapping

$$df_x: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$$

must be nonsingular.

Proof. The composition $f^{-1} \circ f$ is the identity map of U ; hence $d(f^{-1})_x \circ df_x$ is the identity map of \mathbb{R}^k . Similarly $df_x \circ d(f^{-1})_y$ is the identity map of \mathbb{R}^l . Thus df_x has a two-sided inverse, and it follows that $k = l$.

A partial converse to this assertion is valid. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ be a smooth map, with U open in \mathbb{R}^k .

Inverse Function Theorem. If the derivative $df_x: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is nonsingular, then f maps any sufficiently small open set U' about x diffeomorphically onto an open set $f(U')$.

(See Apostol [2, p. 144] or Dieudonné [7, p. 268].)

Note that f may not be one-one in the large, even if every df_x is nonsingular. (An instructive example is provided by the exponential mapping of the complex plane into itself.)

Now let us define the tangent space TM_x for an arbitrary smooth manifold $M \subset \mathbb{R}^k$. Choose a parametrization

$$g: U \rightarrow M \subset \mathbb{R}^k$$

of a neighborhood $g(U)$ of x in M , with $g(u) = x$. Here U is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^k . Think of g as a mapping from U to \mathbb{R}^k , and let the derivative

$$dg_u: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$$

is defined. Set TM_x equal to the image $dg_u(\mathbb{R}^k)$ of dg_u . (Compare Figure 1.)

We must prove that this construction does not depend on the particular choice of parametrization g . Let $h: V \rightarrow M \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ be another parametrization of a neighborhood $h(V)$ of x in M , and let $v = h^{-1}(x)$. Then $h^{-1} \circ g$ maps some neighborhood U' of u diffeomorphically onto a neighborhood V' of v . The commutative diagram of smooth maps

transformation by going around the bottom of the diagram. That is:

$$df_x = dh_v \circ d(h^{-1} \circ f \circ g)_u \circ (dg_u)^{-1}.$$

This completes the proof that

$$df_x: TM_x \rightarrow TN_x$$

is a well-defined linear mapping.

As before, the derivative operation has two fundamental properties:

1. (Chain rule). If $f: M \rightarrow N$ and $g: N \rightarrow P$ are smooth, with $f(x) = y$, then

$$d(g \circ f)_x = dg_y \circ df_x.$$

2. If I is the identity map of M , then dI_x is the identity map of TM_x . More generally, if $M \subset N$ with inclusion map i , then $TM_x \subset TN_x$, with inclusion map d_i . (Compare Figure 2.)

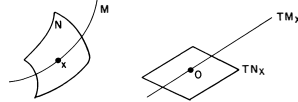


Figure 2. The tangent space of a submanifold

The proofs are straightforward.

As before, these two properties lead to the following:

Assertion. If $f: M \rightarrow N$ is a diffeomorphism, then $df_x: TM_x \rightarrow TN_x$ is an isomorphism of vector spaces. In particular the dimension of M must be equal to the dimension of N .

REGULAR VALUES

Let $f: M \rightarrow N$ be a smooth map between manifolds of the same dimension.* We say that $x \in M$ is a regular point of f if the derivative

* This restriction will be removed in §2.

has rank less than n (i.e. is not onto). Then C will be called the set of critical points, $f(C)$ the set of critical values, and the complement $N = f(C)$ the set of regular values of f . (This agrees with our previous definitions in the case $m = n$.) Since M can be covered by a countable collection of neighborhoods each diffeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^m , we have:

Corollary (A. B. Brown). The set of regular values of a smooth map $f: M \rightarrow N$ is everywhere dense in N .

In order to exploit this corollary we will need the following:

Lemma 1. If $f: M \rightarrow N$ is a smooth map between manifolds of dimension $m \geq n$, and if $y \in N$ is a regular value, then the set $f^{-1}(y) \subset M$ is a smooth manifold of dimension $m - n$.

Proof. Let $x \in f^{-1}(y)$. Since y is a regular value, the derivative df_x must map TM_x onto TN_y . The null space $\mathfrak{N} \subset TM_x$ of df_x will therefore be an $(m - n)$ -dimensional vector space.

If $M \subset \mathbb{R}^k$, choose a linear map $L: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ that is nonsingular on this subspace $\mathfrak{N} \subset TM_x \subset \mathbb{R}^k$. Now define

$$F: M \rightarrow N \times \mathbb{R}^{m-n}$$

by $F(\xi) = (f(\xi), L(\xi))$. The derivative dF_x is clearly given by the formula

$$dF_x(v) = (df_x(v), L(v)).$$

Thus dF_x is nonsingular. Hence F maps some neighborhood U of x diffeomorphically onto a neighborhood V of $(y, L(x))$. Note that $f^{-1}(y)$ corresponds, under F , to the hyperplane $Y \times \mathbb{R}^{m-n}$. In fact F maps $f^{-1}(y) \cap U$ diffeomorphically onto $(y \times \mathbb{R}^{m-n}) \cap V$. This proves that $f^{-1}(y)$ is a smooth manifold of dimension $m - n$.

As an example we can give an easy proof that the unit sphere S^{m-1} is a smooth manifold. Consider the function $f: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$f(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_m^2.$$

Any $y \neq 0$ is a regular value, and the smooth manifold $f^{-1}(1)$ is the unit sphere.

If M' is a manifold which is contained in M , it has already been noted that TM'_x is a subspace of TM_x for $x \in M'$. The orthogonal complement of TM'_x in TM_x is then a vector space of dimension $m - m'$ called the space of normal vectors to M' in M at x .

In particular let $M' = f^{-1}(y)$ for a regular value y of $f: M \rightarrow N$.

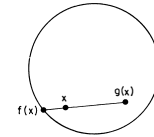


Figure 4

of D^n into points outside of D^n . To correct this we set

$$P(x) = P_1(x)/(1 + \epsilon).$$

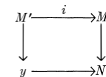
Then clearly P maps D^n into D^n and $\|P(x) - G(x)\| < 2\epsilon$ for $x \in D^n$.

Suppose that $G(x) \neq x$ for all $x \in D^n$. Then the continuous function $\|G(x) - x\|$ must take on a minimum $\mu > 0$ on D^n . Choosing $P: D^n \rightarrow D^n$ as above, with $\|P(x) - G(x)\| < \mu$ for all x , we clearly have $P(x) \neq x$. Thus P is a smooth map from D^n to itself without a fixed point. This contradicts Lemma 6, and completes the proof.

The procedure employed here can frequently be applied in more general situations: to prove a proposition about continuous mappings, we first establish the result for smooth mappings and then try to use an approximation theorem to pass to the continuous case. (Compare §8, Problem 4.)

Lemma 2. The null space of $df_x: TM_x \rightarrow TN_x$ is precisely equal to the tangent space $TM'_x \subset TM_x$ of the submanifold $M' = f^{-1}(y)$. Hence df_x maps the orthogonal complement of TM'_x isomorphically onto TN_y .

Proof. From the diagram



we see that df_x maps the subspace $TM'_x \subset TM_x$ to zero. Counting dimensions we see that df_x maps the space of normal vectors to M' isomorphically onto TN_y .

MANIFOLDS WITH BOUNDARY

The lemmas above can be sharpened so as to apply to a map defined on a smooth "manifold with boundary." Consider first the closed half-space

$$H^m = \{(x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid x_m \geq 0\}.$$

The boundary ∂H^m is defined to be the hyperplane $\mathbb{R}^{m-1} \times 0 \subset \mathbb{R}^m$.

DEFINITION. A subset $X \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is called a smooth m -manifold with boundary if each $x \in X$ has a neighborhood $U \cap X$ diffeomorphic to an open subset $V \cap H^m$ of H^m . The boundary ∂X is the set of all points in X which correspond to points of ∂H^m under such a diffeomorphism.

It is not hard to show that ∂X is a well-defined smooth manifold of dimension $m - 1$. The interior $X - \partial X$ is a smooth manifold of dimension m .

The tangent space TX_x is defined just as in §1, so that TX_x is a full m -dimensional vector space, even if x is a boundary point.

Here is one method for generating examples. Let M be a manifold without boundary and let $g: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ have 0 as regular value.

Lemma 3. The set of x in M with $g(x) \geq 0$ is a smooth manifold, with boundary equal to $g^{-1}(0)$.

The proof is just like the proof of Lemma 1.

§3. PROOF OF SARD'S THEOREM*

First let us recall the statement:

Theorem of Sard. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ be a smooth map, with U open in \mathbb{R}^k , and let C be the set of critical points; that is the set of all $x \in U$ with

$$\text{rank } df_x < p.$$

Then $f(C) \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ has measure zero.

REMARK. The cases where $n \leq p$ are comparatively easy. (Compare de Rham [29, p. 10].) We will, however, give a unified proof which makes these cases look just as bad as the others.

The proof will be by induction on n . Note that the statement makes sense for $n \geq 0$, $p \geq 1$. (By definition \mathbb{R}^0 consists of a single point.) To start the induction, the theorem is certainly true for $n = 0$.

Let $C_i \subset C$ denote the set of all $x \in U$ such that the first derivative df_x is zero. More generally let C_i denote the set of x such that all partial derivatives of f of order $\leq i$ vanish at x . Thus we have a descending sequence of closed sets

$$C \supset C_1 \supset C_2 \supset C_3 \supset \cdots.$$

The proof will be divided into three steps as follows:

STEP 1. The image $f(C - C_1)$ has measure zero.

STEP 2. The image $f(C_i - C_{i+1})$ has measure zero, for $i \geq 1$.

STEP 3. The image $f(C_k)$ has measure zero for k sufficiently large.

(REMARK. If f happens to be real analytic, then the intersection of

* Our proof is based on that given by Pontryagin [28]. The details are somewhat easier since we assume that f is infinitely differentiable.