

The sphere eversion project

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Introduction

This project has two goals. First we want to check whether a proof assistant can do differential topology. Many people still think that formal mathematics are mostly suitable for algebra, combinatorics, or foundational studies. So we chose one of the most famous examples of geometric topology theorems associated to tricky geometric intuition: the existence of sphere eversions. Note however that we won't focus on any of the many videos of explicit sphere eversions. We will prove a general theorem which immediately implies the existence of sphere eversions.

The second goal of this project is to experiment using a formalization blueprint that evolves with the project until we get a proof that has very closely related formal and informal presentations.

In this introduction, we will describe the mathematical context of this project, the main definitions and statements, and outline the proof strategy.

Gromov observed that it's often fruitful to distinguish two kinds of geometric construction problems. He says that a geometric construction problem satisfies the h -principle if the only obstructions to the existence of a solution come from algebraic topology. In this case, the construction is called flexible, otherwise it is called rigid. This definition is purposely vague. We will see a rather general way to give it a precise meaning, but one must keep in mind that such a precise meaning will fail to encompass a number of situations that can be illuminated by the h -principle dichotomy point of view.

The easiest example of a flexible construction problem which is not totally trivial and is algebraically obstructed is the deformation of immersions of circles into planes. Let f_0 and f_1 be two maps from \mathbb{S}^1 to \mathbb{R}^2 that are immersions. Since \mathbb{S}^1 has dimension one, this means that both derivatives f'_0 and f'_1 are nowhere vanishing maps from \mathbb{S}^1 to \mathbb{R}^2 . The geometric object we want to construct is a (smooth) homotopy of immersions from f_0 to f_1 , ie a smooth map $F: \mathbb{S}^1 \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $F|_{\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{0\}} = f_0$, $F|_{\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{1\}} = f_1$, and each $f_p := F|_{\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{p\}}$ is an immersion. If such a homotopy exists then, $(t, p) \mapsto f'_p(t)$ is a homotopy from f'_0 to f'_1 among maps from \mathbb{S}^1 to $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$. Such maps have a well defined winding number $w(f'_i) \in \mathbb{Z}$ around the origin, the degree of the normalized map $f'_i / \|f'_i\|: \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$. So $w(f'_0) = w(f'_1)$ is a necessary condition for the existence of F , which comes from algebraic topology. The Whitney–Graustein theorem states that this necessary condition is also sufficient. Hence this geometric construction problem is flexible. One can give a direct proof of this result, but it will also follow from general results proved in this project.

An important lesson from the above example is that algebraic topology can give us more than a necessary condition. Indeed the (one-dimensional) Hopf degree theorem ensures that, provided $w(f'_0) = w(f'_1)$, there exists a homotopy g_p of nowhere vanishing maps relating f'_0 and f'_1 . We also know from the topology of \mathbb{R}^2 that f_0 and f_1 are homotopic, say using the straight-line homotopy $p \mapsto f_p = (1 - p)f_0 + pf_1$. But there is no a priori relation between g_p and the derivative of f_p for $p \notin \{0, 1\}$. So we can restate the crucial part of the Whitney–

Graustein theorem as: there is a homotopy of immersion from f_0 to f_1 as soon as there is (a homotopy from f_0 to f_1) and a homotopy from f'_0 to f'_1 among nowhere vanishing maps. The parenthesis in the previous sentence indicated that this condition is always satisfied, but it is important to keep in mind for generalizations. Gromov says that such a homotopy of uncoupled pairs (f, g) is a formal solution of the original problem.

One can generalize this discussion of uncoupled maps replacing a map and its derivative. This is pretty easy for maps from a manifold M to a manifold N . The so called 1-jet space $J^1(M, N)$ is the space of triples (m, n, φ) with $m \in M$, $n \in N$, and $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(T_m M, T_n N)$, the space of linear maps from $T_m M$ to $T_n N$. One can define a smooth manifold structure on $J^1(M, N)$, of dimension $\dim(M) + \dim(N) + \dim(M)\dim(N)$ which fibers over M , N and their product $J^0(M, N) := M \times N$. Beware that the notation (m, n, φ) does not mean that $J^1(M, N)$ is a product of three manifolds, the space where φ lives depends on m and n . Any smooth map $f: M \rightarrow N$ gives rise to a section $j^1 f$ of $J^1(M, N) \rightarrow M$ defined by $j^1 f(m) = (m, f(m), T_m f)$. Such a section is called a *holonomic section* of $J^1(M, N)$. In the Whitney–Graustein example, we use the canonical trivialization of $T\mathbb{S}^1$ and $T\mathbb{R}^2$ to represent $j^1 f$ has a pair of maps (f, f') . The role played by (f, g) in this example is played in general by sections of $J^1(M, N) \rightarrow M$ which are not necessarily holonomic.

One can generalize this discussion to $J^r(M, N)$ which remembers derivatives of maps up to order r for some given $r \geq 0$. One can also consider sections of an arbitrary bundle $E \rightarrow M$ instead of functions from M to N , which are sections of the trivial bundle $M \times N \rightarrow N$. But the case of $J^1(M, N)$ will be sufficient for this project.

Definition. A first order differential relation \mathcal{R} for maps from M to N is a subset of $J^1(M, N)$. A solution of \mathcal{R} is a function $f: M \rightarrow N$ such that $j^1 f(m)$ is in \mathcal{R} for all m . A formal solution of \mathcal{R} is a non-necessarily holonomic section of $J^1(M, N) \rightarrow M$ which takes value in \mathcal{R} .

The partial differential relation \mathcal{R} satisfies the *h-principle* if any formal solution σ of \mathcal{R} is homotopic, among formal solutions, to some holonomic one $j^1 f$.

For instance, an immersion of M into N is a solution of

$$\mathcal{R} = \{(m, n, \varphi) \in J^1(M, N) \mid \varphi \text{ is injective}\}.$$

As we saw with the Whitney–Graustein problem, we are not only interested to individual solutions, but also in families of solutions. In differential topology, a smooth family of maps between manifolds X and Y is a smooth map $h: P \times X \rightarrow Y$ seen as the collection of maps $h_p: x \mapsto h(p, x)$. Here P stands for “parameter space”. A smooth family of sections of $E \rightarrow X$ is a smooth family of maps $\sigma: P \times X \rightarrow E$ such that each σ_p is a section.

When the parameter space P has boundary, we will typically assume that formal solutions σ_p are holonomic for p in $\mathcal{N}(\partial P)$. This is an abbreviation meaning: “there is an unspecified neighborhood U of ∂P such that σ_p is holonomic for p in U ”. Note that an unspecified neighborhood can change from invocation to invocation. For instance in the next definition, the second unspecified neighborhood is typically smaller than the first one.

Definition. A partial differential relation \mathcal{R} satisfies the *parametric h-principle* if every family of formal solutions $\sigma: M \times P \rightarrow J^1(M, N)$ which are holonomic for p in $\mathcal{N}(\partial P)$ is homotopic, relative to $\mathcal{N}(\partial P)$, to a family of holonomic sections.

There are other variations on this definition. For instance a formal solution could be holonomic on $\mathcal{N}(A)$ for some subset A of M , and we say that \mathcal{R} satisfies the relative *h-principle* if σ can be deformed to a holonomic solution without changing it on $\mathcal{N}(A)$.

One can also insist on the deformed solution to be C^0 -close to the original one. In this case one talks about a C^0 -dense h -principle. We are now ready to state our main goal.

Theorem. *The relation of immersions in positive codimension (ie immersions of M into N with $\dim(N) > \dim(M)$) satisfies all forms of h -principles.*

This theorem covers the Whitney–Graustein theorem (in its second form, assuming the existence of a homotopy between derivatives). But there are much less intuitive applications. The most famous one is the existence of sphere eversions: one can “turn S^2 inside-out among immersions of S^2 into \mathbb{R}^3).

Corollary (Smale 1958). *There is a homotopy of immersion of S^2 into \mathbb{R}^3 from the inclusion map to the antipodal map $a: q \mapsto -q$.*

The reason why this is turning the sphere inside-out is that a extends as a map from $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ by

$$\hat{a}: q \mapsto -\frac{1}{\|q\|^2}q$$

which exchanges the interior and exterior of S^2 . More abstractly, one can say the normal bundle of S^2 is trivial, hence one can extend a to a tubular neighborhood of S^2 as an orientation preserving map. Since a is orientation reversing, any such extension will be reversing coorientation.

Proof of the sphere eversion corollary. We denote by ι the inclusion of S^2 into \mathbb{R}^3 . We set $j_t = (1-t)\iota + ta$. This is a homotopy from ι to a (but not an immersion for $t = 1/2$). We need to check there is no obstruction to building a homotopy of formal solutions above those maps. One could show that the relevant homotopy group (replacing $\pi_1(S^1)$ from the Whitney–Graustein example) is $\pi_2(SO_3(\mathbb{R}))$. This group is trivial, hence there is no obstruction. But actually we can write an explicit homotopy here, without using any algebraic topology. Using the canonical trivialization of the tangent bundle of \mathbb{R}^3 , we can set, for $(q, v) \in TS^2$, $G_t(q, v) = \text{Rot}_{Oq}^{\pi t}(v)$, the rotation around axis Oq with angle πt . The family $\sigma: t \mapsto (j_t, G_t)$ is a homotopy of formal immersions relating $j^1\iota$ to j^1a . The above theorem ensures this family is homotopic, relative to $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, to a family of holonomic formal immersions, ie a family $t \mapsto j^1f_t$ with $f_0 = \iota$, $f_1 = a$, and each f_t is an immersion. \square

The theorem above follows from a more general theorem which is slightly too technical for this introduction: the h -principle for open and ample first order differential relations. We will prove this theorem using a technique which is even more general: convex integration. For instance this technique also underlies the constructions of paradoxical isometric embeddings, which could be a nice follow-up project.

We’ll end this introduction by describing the key construction of convex integration, since it is very nice and elementary. Convex integration was invented by Gromov around 1970, inspired in particular by the C^1 isometric embedding work of Nash and the original proof of flexibility of immersions. This term is pretty vague however, and there are several different implementations. The newest one, and by far the most efficient one, is Mélanie Theillièr’s corrugation process from 2017. And this is what we will use.

Let f be a map from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m . Say we want to turn f into a solution of some partial differential relation. For instance if we are interested in immersions, we want to make sure its differential (or equivalently its Jacobian matrix) is everywhere injective. We will ensure this by tackling each partial derivative in turn. In the immersion example, we first make sure $\partial_1 f(x) := \partial f(x)/\partial x_1$ is non-zero for all x . Then we make sure $\partial_2 f(x)$ is not colinear

to $\partial_1 f(x)$. Then we make sure $\partial_3 f(x)$ is not in the plane spanned by the two previous derivatives, etc... until all n partial derivatives are everywhere linearly independent.

In general, what happens is that, for each number j between 1 and n , we wish $\partial_j f(x)$ could live in some open subset $\Omega_x \subset \mathbb{R}^m$. Assume there is a smooth compactly supported family of loops $\gamma: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ such that each γ_x takes values in Ω_x , and has average value $\int_{\mathbb{S}^1} \gamma_x = \partial_j f(x)$. Obviously such loops can exist only if $\partial_j f(x)$ is in the convex hull of Ω_x , hence the name convex integration, and we will see this condition is almost sufficient. In the immersion case, this convex hull condition will always be met because, from the above description, we see that Ω_x will always be the complement of a linear subspace with codimension at least two.

For some large positive N , we replace f by the new map

$$x \mapsto f(x) + \frac{1}{N} \int_0^{Nx_j} [\gamma_x(s) - \partial_j f(x)] ds.$$

A wonderfully easy exercise shows that, provided N is large enough, we have achieved $\partial_j f(x) \in \Omega_x$, almost without modifying derivatives $\partial_i f(x)$ for $i \neq j$, and almost without moving $f(x)$.

In addition, if we assume that γ_x is constant (necessarily with value $\partial_j f(x)$) for x near some subset K where $\partial_j f(x)$ was already good, then nothing changed on K since the integrand vanishes there. It is also easy to damp out this modification by multiplying the integral by a cut-off function. So this is a very local construction, and it isn't obvious how the absence of homotopical obstruction, embodied by the existence of a formal solution, should enter the discussion. The answer is that is essentially provides a way to coherently choose base points for the γ_x loops.

Chapter 1 provides the loops supply. Chapter 2 then discusses the local theory, including the key construction above. It also proves the sphere eversion corollary. The full project, also includes a chapter about the global theory.

Chapter 1

Loops

1.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we explain how to construct families of loops to feed into the corrugation process explained at the end of the introduction. A loop is a map defined on the circle $\mathbb{S}^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ with values in a finite-dimensional vector space. It can also freely be seen as 1-periodic maps defined on \mathbb{R} .

Definition 1.1. *The average of a loop γ is $\bar{\gamma} := \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} \gamma(s) ds$.*

Throughout this document, E and F will denote finite-dimensional real vector spaces.

Definition 1.2. *The support of a family γ of loops in F parametrized by E is the closure of the set of x in E such that γ_x is not a constant loop.*

All of this chapter is devoted to proving the following proposition.

Proposition 1.3. *Let K a compact set in E . Let Ω be an open set in $E \times F$.*

Let β and g be smooth maps from E to F . Write $\Omega_x := \{y \in F \mid (x, y) \in \Omega\}$, assume that $\beta(x) \in \Omega_x$ for all x , and that $g(x) = \beta(x)$ near K .

If, for every x , $g(x)$ is in the convex hull of the connected component of Ω_x containing $\beta(x)$, then there exists a smooth family of loops

$$\gamma: E \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F, (x, t, s) \mapsto \gamma_x^t(s)$$

such that, for all $x \in E$, all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and all $s \in \mathbb{S}^1$,

- $\gamma_x^t(s) \in \Omega_x$
- $\gamma_x^0(s) = \gamma_x^t(1) = \beta(x)$
- $\bar{\gamma}_x^1 = g(x)$
- $\gamma_x^t(s) = \beta(x)$ if x is near K .

Let us briefly sketch the geometric idea behind the above proposition if we pretend there is only one point x , and drop it from the notation, and also focus only on γ^1 . By assumption, there is a finite collection of points p_i in Ω and $\lambda_i \in [0, 1]$ such that g is the barycenter $\sum \lambda_i p_i$. Since Ω is open and connected, there is a smooth loop γ_0 which goes through each p_i . The

claim is that g is the average value of $\gamma = \gamma_0 \circ h$ for some self-diffeomorphism h of \mathbb{S}^1 . The idea is to choose h such that γ rushes to p_1 , stays there during a time roughly λ_1 , rushes to p_2 , etc. But, in order to achieve average exactly g , it seems like h needs to be a discontinuous piecewise constant map. The assumption that Ω is open means that the convex hull is open, which gives enough slack to get away with a smooth h .

In the previous proof sketch, there is a lot of freedom in constructing γ , which is problematic when trying to do it consistently when x varies.

1.2 Preliminaries

In this section, E is a real vector space with (finite) dimension d . We'll need the Carathéodory lemma:

Lemma 1.4 (Carathéodory's lemma). *If a point x of E lies in the convex hull of a set P , then x belongs to the convex hull of a finite set of affinely independent points of P .*

Proof. By assumption, there is a finite set of points t_i in P and weights f_i such that $x = \sum f_i t_i$, each f_i is non-negative and $\sum f_i = 1$. Choose such a set of points of minimum cardinality. We argue by contradiction that such a set must be affinely independent.

Thus suppose that there is some vanishing combination $\sum g_i t_i$ with $\sum g_i = 0$ and not all g_i vanish. Let $S = \{i | g_i > 0\}$. Let i_0 in S be an index minimizing f_i/g_i . We shall obtain our contradiction by showing that x belongs to the convex hull of the set $\{t_i | i \neq i_0\}$, which has cardinality strictly smaller than $\{t_i\}$.

We thus define new weights $k_i = f_i - g_i f_{i_0}/g_{i_0}$. These weights sum to $\sum f_i - (\sum g_i) f_{i_0}/g_{i_0} = 1$ and $k_{i_0} = 0$. Each k_i is non-negative, thanks to the choice of i_0 if i is in S or using that f_i , $-g_i$ and f_{i_0}/g_{i_0} are all non-negative when i is not in S . It remain to compute

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \neq i_0} k_i t_i &= \sum_i k_i t_i \\ &= \sum_i (f_i - g_i f_{i_0}/g_{i_0}) t_i \\ &= \sum_i f_i t_i - \left(\sum_i g_i t_i \right) f_{i_0}/g_{i_0} \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

where we use $k_{i_0} = 0$ in the first equality. □

Definition 1.5. *A point x in E is surrounded by points p_0, \dots, p_d if those points are affinely independent and there exist weights $w_i \in (0, 1)$ with sum 1 such that $x = \sum_i w_i p_i$.*

Note that, in the above definition, the number of points p_i is fixed by the dimension d of E , and that the weights w_i are the barycentric coordinates of x with respect to the affine basis p_0, \dots, p_d .

Lemma 1.6. *Given an affine basis b of E , the interior of the convex hull of b is the set of points with strictly positive barycentric coordinates.*

Proof. For each i , let:

$$w_i: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

be the i^{th} barycentric coordinate with respect to the basis b . Since E is finite-dimensional, each w_i is a continuous open map. For such a map, the operation of taking interior commutes with preimage, and so we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{IntConv}(b) &= \text{Int} \left(\bigcap_i w_i^{-1}([0, \infty)) \right) \\ &= \bigcap_i \text{Int}(w_i^{-1}([0, \infty)) \\ &= \bigcap_i w_i^{-1}(\text{Int}([0, \infty)) \\ &= \bigcap_i w_i^{-1}((0, \infty))\end{aligned}$$

as required. □

Lemma 1.7. *Given a point c of E and a real number t , let:*

$$h_t^c: E \rightarrow E$$

be the homothety which dilates about c by a scale of t .

Suppose c belongs to the interior of a convex subset C of E and $t > 1$, then

$$C \subseteq \text{Int}(h_t^c(C))$$

Proof. Since h_t^c is a homeomorphism with inverse $h_{t^{-1}}^c$, taking $s = t^{-1}$, the required result is equivalent to showing:

$$h_s^c(C) \subseteq \text{Int}(C)$$

where $s \in (0, 1)$.

Let x be a point of C , we must show there exists an open neighborhood U of $h_s^c(x)$, contained in C . In fact we claim:

$$U = h_{1-s}^x(\text{Int}(C))$$

is such a set. Indeed U is open since h_{1-s}^x is a homeomorphism and U contains $h_s^c(x)$ since:

$$h_s^c(x) = h_{1-s}^x(c) \in h_{1-s}^x(\text{Int}(C))$$

since c belongs to $\text{Int}(C)$. Finally:

$$h_{1-s}^x(\text{Int}(C)) \subseteq h_{1-s}^x(C) \subseteq C$$

where the second inclusion follows since C is convex and contains x . □

Lemma 1.8. *If a point x of E lies in the convex hull of an open set P , then it is surrounded by some collection of points belonging to P .*

Proof. It follows from Lemma 1.6 that we need only show that E has an affine basis b of points belonging to P such that x lies in the interior of the convex hull of b .

Carathéodory's lemma 1.4 provides affinely independent points p_0, \dots, p_k in P such that x belongs to their convex hull. Since P is open, we may extend p_i to an affine basis

$$\hat{b} = \{p_0, \dots, p_d\},$$

where all points still belong to P . Note that x belongs to the convex hull of \hat{b} .

Now let c be a point in the interior of the convex hull of \hat{b} (e.g., the centroid) and for each $\epsilon > 0$, consider the homothety

$$h_{1+\epsilon}: E \rightarrow E,$$

which dilates about c by a scale of $1 + \epsilon$.

Since \hat{b} is finite and contained in P , and P is open, there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that

$$h_{1+\epsilon}(\hat{b}) \subseteq P.$$

We claim the required basis is:

$$b = h_{1+\epsilon}(\hat{b})$$

for any such ϵ . Indeed, applying Lemma 1.7 to $\text{Conv}(\hat{b})$ we see:

$$\begin{aligned} x \in \text{Conv}(\hat{b}) &\subseteq \text{Int}(h_{1+\epsilon}(\text{Conv}(\hat{b}))) \\ &= \text{Int}(\text{Conv}(h_{1+\epsilon}(\hat{b}))) \end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

Lemma 1.9. *For every x in E and every collection of points $p \in E^{d+1}$ surrounding x , there is a function $w: E \times E^{d+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ such that, for every (y, q) in a neighborhood of (x, p) ,*

- w is smooth at (y, q)
- $w(y, q) > 0$
- $\sum_{i=0}^d w_i(y, q) = 1$
- $y = \sum_{i=0}^d w_i(y, q)q_i$

Proof. Let:

$$A = E \times \{q \in E^{d+1} \mid q \text{ is an affine basis for } E\},$$

and define:

$$w: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$$

$$(y, q) \mapsto \text{barycentric coordinates of } y \text{ with respect to } q.$$

If we fix an affine basis b of E , we may express w as a ratio of determinants in terms of coordinates relative to b . More precisely, by Cramer's rule, if $0 \leq i \leq d$ and w_i is the i^{th} component of w , then:

$$w_i(y, q) = \det M_i(y, q) / \det N(q)$$

where $N(q)$ is the $(d+1) \times (d+1)$ matrix whose columns are the barycentric coordinates of the components of q relative to b , and $M_i(y, q)$ is $N(q)$ except with column i replaced by the barycentric coordinates of y relative to b .

Since determinants are smooth functions and $(y, q) \mapsto \det N(q)$ is non-vanishing on A , w is smooth on A .

Finally define:

$$U = w^{-1}((0, \infty)^{d+1}),$$

and note that U is open in A , since it is the preimage of an open set under the continuous map w . In fact since A is open, U is open as a subset of $E \times E^{d+1}$. Note that $(x, p) \in U$ since p surrounds x .

We may extend w to $E \times E^{d+1}$ by giving it any values at all outside A . \square

1.3 Constructing loops

1.3.1 Surrounding families

It will be convenient to introduce some more vocabulary.

Definition 1.10. We say a loop γ surrounds a vector v if v is surrounded by a collection of points belonging to the image of γ . Also, we fix a base point 0 in \mathbb{S}^1 and say a loop is based at some point b if 0 is sent to b .

The first main task in proving Proposition 1.3 is to construct suitable families of loops γ_x surrounding $g(x)$, by assembling local families of loops. Those will then be reparametrized to get the correct average in the next section. In this section, we will work only with *continuous* loops. This will make constructions easier and we will smooth those loops in the end, taking advantage of the fact that Ω and the surrounding condition are open.

Thanks to Carathéodory's lemma, constructing *one* such loop with values in some open O is easy as soon as v belongs to the convex hull of O .

Lemma 1.11. If a vector v is in the convex hull of a connected open subset O then, for every base point $b \in O$, there is a continuous family of loops $\gamma: [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow E$, $(t, s) \mapsto \gamma^t(s)$ such that, for all t and s :

- γ^t is based at b
- $\gamma^0(s) = b$
- $\gamma^t(s) \in O$
- γ^1 surrounds v

Proof. Since O is open, Lemma 1.8 gives points p_i in O surrounding x . Since O is open and connected, it is path connected. Let $\lambda: [0, 1] \rightarrow \Omega_x$ be a continuous path starting at b and going through the points p_i . We can concatenate λ and its opposite to get γ^1 , say $\gamma^1(s) = \lambda((1 - \cos 2\pi s)/2)$. This is a round-trip loop: it back-tracks when it reaches $\lambda(1)$ at $s = 1/2$. We then define γ^t as the round-trip that stops at $s = t/2$, stays still until $s = 1 - t/2$ and then backtracks. \square

Definition 1.12. A continuous family of loops $\gamma: E \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$, $(x, t, s) \mapsto \gamma_x^t(s)$ surrounds a map $g: E \rightarrow F$ with base $\beta: E \rightarrow F$ on $U \subset E$ in $\Omega \subset E \times F$ if, for every x in U , every $t \in [0, 1]$ and every $s \in \mathbb{S}^1$,

- γ_x^t is based at $\beta(x)$
- $\gamma_x^0(s) = \beta(x)$
- γ_x^1 surrounds $g(x)$
- $(x, \gamma_x^t(s)) \in \Omega$.

The space of such families will be denoted by $\mathcal{L}(g, \beta, U, \Omega)$.

Families of surrounding loops are easy to construct locally.

Lemma 1.13. Assume Ω is open over some neighborhood of x_0 . If $g(x_0)$ is in the convex hull of the connected component of Ω_{x_0} containing $\beta(x_0)$, then there is a continuous family of loops defined near x_0 , based at β , taking value in Ω and surrounding g .

Proof. In this proof we don't mention the t parameter since it plays no role, but it is still there. Lemma 1.11 gives a loop γ based at $\beta(x_0)$, taking values in Ω_{x_0} and surrounding $g(x_0)$. We set $\gamma_x(s) = \beta(x) + (\gamma(s) - \beta(x_0))$. Each γ_x takes values in Ω_x because Ω is open over some neighborhood of x_0 . Lemma 1.9 guarantees that this loop surrounds $g(x)$ for x close enough to x_0 . \square

The difficulty in constructing global families of surrounding loops is that there are plenty of surrounding loops and we need to choose them consistently. The key feature of the above definition is that the t parameter not only allows us to cut out the corrugation process in the next chapter, but also brings a “satisfied or refund” guarantee, as explained in the next lemma.

Lemma 1.14. *For every set $U \subset E$, $\mathcal{L}(g, \beta, U, \Omega)$ is contractible: for every γ_0 and γ_1 in $\mathcal{L}(g, \beta, U, \Omega)$, there is a continuous map $\delta: [0, 1] \times E \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$, $(\tau, x, t, s) \mapsto \delta_{\tau, x}^t(s)$ which interpolates between γ_0 and γ_1 in $\mathcal{L}(g, \beta, U, \Omega)$.*

Proof. Let ρ be the piecewise affine map from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} such that $\rho(\tau) = 1$ if $\tau \leq 1/2$, ρ is affine on $[1/2, 1]$, $\rho(\tau) = 0$ if $\tau \geq 1$. We set

$$\delta_{\tau, x}^t(s) = \begin{cases} \gamma_{0, x}^{\rho(\tau)t} \left(\frac{1}{1-\tau} s \right) & \text{if } s \leq 1 - \tau \text{ and } \tau < 1 \\ \gamma_{1, x}^{\rho(1-\tau)t} \left(\frac{1}{\tau} (s - (1 - \tau)) \right) & \text{if } s \geq 1 - \tau \text{ and } \tau > 0 \end{cases}$$

It is clear that if $s = 1 - \tau$ then both branches agree and are equal to $\beta(x)$. Therefore it is easy to see that δ is continuous at (τ, x, t, s) except when $(\tau, s) = (1, 0)$ or $(\tau, s) = (0, 1)$.

To show the continuity for $(\tau, s) = (1, 0)$, let K be a compact neighborhood of x in E . Then γ_0 is uniformly continuous on the compact set $K \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1$, which means that $\gamma_{0, x'}^t$ tends uniformly to the constant function $s \mapsto \beta(x)$ as (x', t) tends to $(x, 0)$. This means that $\gamma_{0, x'}^{\rho(\tau)t'}$ tends uniformly to the constant function $s \mapsto \beta(x)$ as (τ, x', t') tends to $(1, x, t)$. This means that δ is continuous at $(\tau, s) = (1, 0)$ (it is clear that the other branch also tends to $\beta(x)$). The continuity at $(\tau, s) = (0, 1)$ is entirely analogous.

The beautiful observation motivating the above formula is why each $\delta_{\tau, x}^1$ surrounds $g(x)$. The key is that the image of $\delta_{\tau, x}^1$ contains the image of $\gamma_{0, x}^1$ when $\tau \leq 1/2$, and contains the image of $\gamma_{1, x}^1$ when $\tau \geq 1/2$. Hence $\delta_{\tau, x}^1$ always surrounds $g(x)$. \square

Corollary 1.15. *Let U_0 and U_1 be open sets in E . Let $K_0 \subset U_0$ and $K_1 \subset U_1$ be compact subsets. For any $\gamma_0 \in \mathcal{L}(U_0, g, \beta, \Omega)$ and $\gamma_1 \in \mathcal{L}(U_1, g, \beta, \Omega)$, there exists $U \in \mathcal{N}(K_0 \cup K_1)$ and there exists $\gamma \in \mathcal{L}(U, g, \beta, \Omega)$ which coincides with γ_0 near $K_0 \cup U_1^c$.*

Proof. Let $C_0 = K_0 \cup U_1^c$ and $C_1 := K_1 \setminus U_0$. Since C_0 and C_1 are disjoint closed sets, there is some continuous cut-off $\rho: E \rightarrow [0, 1]$ which vanishes on a neighborhood of C_0 and equals one on a neighborhood of C_1 .

Lemma 1.14 gives a homotopy of loops γ_τ from γ_0 to γ_1 on $U_0 \cap U_1$. Moreover, note that γ_τ is defined on all of E . On $U_0' \cup (U_0 \cap U_1) \cup U_1'$, which is a neighborhood of $K_0 \cup K_1$, we set

$$\gamma_x = \gamma_{\rho(x), x}$$

which has the required properties. \square

Lemma 1.16. *In the setup of Proposition 1.3, assume we have a continuous family γ of loops defined near K which is based at β , surrounds g and such that each γ_x^t takes values in Ω_x . Then there such a family which is defined on all of E and agrees with γ near K .*

Proof. Let U_0 be an open set containing K such that γ forms a surrounding family of loops on U_0 . Let U_i , $i \geq 1$ be a locally finite family of open sets with local surrounding families of loops γ^i and compact subsets $K_i \subset U_i$ covering E .

This is possible, since by Lemma 1.13 there is a local surrounding family of loops around each point in E . Since E is locally compact we may pick a compact neighborhood around each point in E with such a local family of loops. Since E is paracompact second countable, we can pick a countable refinement U_i which is locally finite and still covers E . By the shrinking lemma we can pick closed (and hence compact) subsets $K_i \subset U_i$ that also cover E .

Now we define a family $(\delta^i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ by $\delta^0 = \gamma|_{U_0}$ and δ^{i+1} is obtained by extending δ^i using γ^i via Corollary 1.15. Since δ^{i+1} equals δ^i on U_i^c , this sequence is locally eventually constant. Therefore it has a well-defined limit δ which is defined and continuous on all E . Since δ^{i+1} equals δ^i on a neighborhood of $K \cup \bigcup_{j < i} K_j$, we know in particular that δ^i equals γ on a neighborhood of K . Since K is compact, it has some neighborhood O such that $\delta^i|_O$ is eventually constant with eventual value $\delta|_O$. Hence $\delta = \gamma$ on a neighborhood of K . \square

1.3.2 The reparametrization lemma

The second ingredient needed to prove Proposition 1.3 is a parametric reparametrization lemma.

Lemma 1.17. *Let $\gamma: E \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$ be a smooth family of loops surrounding a map g . There is a smooth family of equivalences $\varphi: E \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ such that each $\gamma_x \circ \varphi_x$ has average $g(x)$ and $\varphi_x(0) = 0$.*

Proof. For any fixed x , since γ_x strictly surrounds $g(x)$, there are points s_1, \dots, s_{n+1} in \mathbb{S}^1 such that $g(x)$ is surrounded by the corresponding points $\gamma_x(s_j)$.

Let μ_1, \dots, μ_{n+1} be smooth positive probability measures very close to the Dirac measures on s_j (ie. $\mu_j = f_j ds$ for some smooth positive function f_j and, for any function h , $\int h d\mu_j$ is almost $h(s_j)$). We set $p_j = \int \gamma_x d\mu_j$, which is almost $\gamma_x(s_j)$ so that $g(x) = \sum w_j p_j$ for some weights w_j in the open interval $(0, 1)$ according to Lemma 1.9.

If x' is in a sufficiently small neighborhood of x , Lemma 1.9 gives smooth weight functions w_j such that $g(x') = \sum w_j(x') p_j(x')$. Let U^i , $i \geq 1$ be a locally finite cover of E by such neighborhoods, with corresponding measures μ_j^i , moving points p_j^i and weight functions w_j^i . Let (ρ_i) be a partition of unity associated to this covering. For every x , we set

$$\mu_x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} \rho_i(x) w_j^i(x) \mu_j^i$$

so that:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \gamma_x d\mu_x &= \sum_i \rho_i(x) \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} w_j^i(x) \int \gamma_x d\mu_j^i \\ &= \sum_i \rho_i(x) \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} w_j^i(x) p_j^i(x) \\ &= \sum_i \rho_i(x) g(x) = g(x). \end{aligned}$$

We now set $\varphi_x^{-1}(t) = \int_0^t d\mu_x$ so that $g(x) = \overline{\gamma_x \circ \varphi_x}$ for all x . \square

1.3.3 Proof of the loop construction proposition

We finally assemble the ingredients from the previous two sections.

Proof of Proposition 1.3. Let γ^* be a family of loops surrounding the origin in $B_F(0, 1)$ the open unit ball in F , constructed using Lemma 1.13. For x in some neighborhood U^* of K where $g = \beta$, we set $\gamma_x = g(x) + \varepsilon\gamma^*$ where $\varepsilon > 0$ is sufficiently small to ensure that $B_{E \times F}((x, \beta(x)), 2\varepsilon) \subseteq \Omega$ (recall Ω is open and K is compact). Lemma 1.16 extends this family to a continuous family of surrounding loops γ_x for all x (this is not yet our final γ).

We then need to approximate this continuous family by a smooth one. Some care is needed to ensure that it stays based at β . We can first reparametrize γ on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1$ to ensure that γ is constant in a neighborhood around $C = \{(t, s) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \mid t = 0 \vee s = 0\}$. By a partition of unity argument, we can find a smooth function that has distance at most ε from γ and coincides with γ on C (using the fact that γ is already smooth near C). Since all loops that are sufficiently close to γ still surround g , we can also ensure that the new smoothened γ is still surrounding.

Then Lemma 1.17 gives a family of circle diffeomorphisms h_x such that $\gamma_x^1 \circ h_x$ has average $g(x)$.

Finally we choose a cut-off function χ which vanishes near K and equals one near $E \setminus U^*$. As our final family of loop, we choose $(1 - \chi(x))g(x) + \chi(x)(\gamma_x \circ h_x)$. This operation does not change the average values of these loops, because it rescales them around their average value, but makes them constant on $\text{Op } K$. Also, those loops stay in Ω , thanks to our choice of ε . \square

Chapter 2

Local theory of convex integration

2.1 Key construction

The goal of this chapter is to explain the local aspects of (Theillière’s implementation of) convex integration, the next chapter will cover global aspects.

The elementary step of convex integration modifies the derivative of a map in one direction. The precise meaning of “one direction” rely on the following definition.

Definition 2.1. *A dual pair on a vector space E is a pair (π, v) where π is a linear form on E and v a vector in E such that $\pi(v) = 1$.*

Let E and F be finite dimensional real normed vector spaces. Let $f: E \rightarrow F$ be a smooth map, and let (π, v) be a dual pair on E . We want to modify Df in the direction of v while almost preserving it on $\ker \pi$. Say we wish $Df(x)v$ could live in some open subset $\Omega_x \subset F$. Assume there is a smooth compactly supported family of loops $\gamma: E \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$ such that each γ_x takes values in Ω_x , and its average value $\bar{\gamma}_x = \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} \gamma_x$ is $Df(x)v$ for all x . Obviously such loops can exist only if $Df(x)v$ is in the convex hull of Ω_x , and we saw in the previous chapter that this is almost sufficient (and we’ll see this is sufficiently almost sufficient for our purposes). Then we can modify f to fulfil our wish using the following construction.

Definition 2.2. *The map obtained by corrugation of f in direction (π, v) using γ with oscillation number N is*

$$x \mapsto f(x) + \frac{1}{N} \int_0^{N\pi(x)} [\gamma_x(s) - \bar{\gamma}_x] ds.$$

In the above definition, we mostly think of N as a large natural number. But we don’t actually require it, any positive real number will do.

The next proposition implies that, provided N is large enough, we have achieved $Df'(x)v \in \Omega_x$, almost without modifying derivatives in the directions of $\ker \pi$, and almost without moving $f(x)$.

Proposition 2.3 (Theillière 2018). *Let f be a \mathcal{C}^1 function from E to F . Let (π, v) be a dual pair on E . Let $\gamma: E \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$ be a \mathcal{C}^1 family of loops such that $\bar{\gamma}_x = Df(x)v$ for all x .*

For any compact set $K \subset E$ and any positive ε , the function f' obtained by corrugation of f in direction (π, v) using γ with large enough oscillation number N satisfies:

1. $\forall x \in K, \|f'(x) - f(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$
2. $\forall x \in K, \|(Df'(x) - Df(x))|_{\ker \pi}\| \leq \varepsilon.$
3. $\forall x \in K, \|Df'(x)v - \gamma(x, N\pi(x))\| \leq \varepsilon$

In addition, all the differences estimated above vanish if x is outside the support of γ .

Proof. We set $\Gamma_x(t) = \int_0^t (\gamma_x(s) - \bar{\gamma}_x) ds$, so that $f'(x) = f(x) + \Gamma_x(N\pi(x))/N$. Because each Γ_x is 1-periodic, and everything has compact support in E , all derivatives of Γ are uniformly bounded. Item 1 in the statement is then obvious. Item 2 also follows since $\partial_i f'(x) = \partial_i f(x) + \partial_i \Gamma(x, N\pi(x))/N$. In order to prove Item 3, we compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
Df'(x)v &= Df(x)v + \frac{1}{N} \partial_j \Gamma(x, N\pi(x)) + \frac{N}{N} \partial_t \Gamma(x, N\pi(x)) \\
&= Df(x)v + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right) + \gamma(x, N\pi(x)) - Df(x)v \\
&= \gamma(x, N\pi(x)) + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right).
\end{aligned}$$

Outside the support of γ , Γ_x and its derivative with respect to x vanish identically (for the derivative computation, it is important that the support of γ is the *closure* of the set of x where γ_x is not constant). \square

2.2 The main inductive step

Definition 2.4. Let E' be a linear subspace of E . A map $\mathcal{F} = (f, \varphi) : E \rightarrow F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$ is E' -holonomic if, for every v in E' and every x , $Df(x)v = \varphi(x)v$.

Definition 2.5. A first order differential relation for maps from E to F is a subset \mathcal{R} of $E \times F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$.

Until the end of this section, \mathcal{R} will always denote a first order differential relation for maps from E to F .

Definition 2.6. A formal solution of a differential relation \mathcal{R} is a map $\mathcal{F} = (f, \varphi) : E \rightarrow F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$ such that, for every x , $(x, f(x), \varphi(x))$ is in \mathcal{R} .

The first component of a map $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$ will sometimes be denoted by $\text{bs } \mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow F$ and called the base map of \mathcal{F} .

Definition 2.7. A 1-jet section from E to F is a function from E to $F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$. A homotopy of 1-jet sections is a smooth map $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{R} \times E \rightarrow F \times \text{Hom}(E, F)$.

Typically, $x \mapsto \mathcal{F}(t, x)$ will be denoted by \mathcal{F}_t . It could seem more natural to take $[0, 1] \times E$ as the source of a homotopy but this would be less convenient for formalization and wouldn't change anything since any map from $\mathbb{R} \times E$ can be restricted to $[0, 1] \times E$ and every map from $[0, 1] \times E$ could be extended.

Definition 2.8. For every $\sigma = (x, y, \varphi)$, the slice of \mathcal{R} at σ with respect to (π, v) is:

$$\mathcal{R}(\sigma, \pi, v) = \{w \in F \mid (x, y, \varphi + (w - \varphi(v)) \otimes \pi) \in \mathcal{R}\}.$$

Lemma 2.9. *The linear map $\varphi + (w - \varphi(v)) \otimes \pi$ coincides with φ on $\ker \pi$ and sends v to w . If σ belongs to \mathcal{R} then $\varphi(v)$ belongs to $\{w \in F, (x, y, \varphi + (w - \varphi(v)) \otimes \pi) \in \mathcal{R}\}$.*

Proof. These are direct checks. \square

We'll use the notation $\text{Conn}_w A$ to denote the connected component of A that contains w , or the empty set if w doesn't belong to A .

Definition 2.10. *A formal solution \mathcal{F} of \mathcal{R} is (π, v) -short if, for every x , $Df(x)v$ belongs to the interior of the convex hull of $\text{Conn}_{\varphi(v)} \mathcal{R}((x, f(x), \varphi(x)), \pi, v)$.*

Lemma 2.11. *Let \mathcal{F} be a formal solution of \mathcal{R} . Let $K_1 \subset E$ be a compact subset, and let K_0 be a compact subset of the interior of K_1 . Let C be a closed subset of E . Let E' be a linear subspace of E contained in $\ker \pi$. Let ε be a positive real number.*

Assume \mathcal{R} is open. Assume that \mathcal{F} is E' -holonomic near K_0 , (π, v) -short, and holonomic near C . Then there is a homotopy \mathcal{F}_t such that:

1. $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}$;
2. \mathcal{F}_t is a formal solution of \mathcal{R} for all t ;
3. $\mathcal{F}_t(x) = \mathcal{F}(x)$ for all t when x is near C or outside K_1 ;
4. $d(\text{bs } \mathcal{F}_t(x), \text{bs } \mathcal{F}(x)) \leq \varepsilon$ for all t and all x ;
5. \mathcal{F}_1 is $E' \oplus \mathbb{R}v$ -holonomic near K_0 .

Proof. We denote the components of \mathcal{F} by f and φ . Since \mathcal{F} is short, Proposition 1.3 applied to $g: x \mapsto Df(x)v$, $\beta: x \mapsto \varphi(x)v$, $\Omega_x = \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(x), \pi, v)$, and $K = C \cap K_1$ gives us a smooth family of loops $\gamma: E \times [0, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow F$ such that, for all x :

- $\forall t s, \gamma_x^t(s) \in \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(x), \pi, v)$
- $\forall s, \gamma_x^0(s) = \varphi(x)v$
- $\bar{\gamma}_x^1 = Df(x)v$
- if x is near C , $\forall t s, \gamma_x^t(s) = \varphi(x)v$

Let $\rho: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth cut-off function which equals one on a neighborhood of K_0 and whose support is contained in K_1 .

Let N be a positive real number. Let \bar{f} be the corrugated map constructed from f , γ^1 and N . Proposition 2.3 ensures that, for all x ,

$$D\bar{f}(x) = Df(x) + [\gamma_x^1(N\pi(x)) - Df(x)v] \otimes \pi + \frac{1}{N}B_x$$

for some bounded map B which vanishes whenever γ_x is constant, hence vanishes near C .

We set $\mathcal{F}_t(x) = (f_t(x), \varphi_t(x))$ where:

$$f_t(x) = f(x) + \frac{t\rho(x)}{N} \int_0^{N\pi(x)} [\gamma_x^t(s) - Df(x)v] ds$$

and

$$\varphi_t(x) = \varphi(x) + [\gamma_x^{t\rho(x)}(N\pi(x)) - \varphi(x)v] \otimes \pi + \frac{t\rho(x)}{N}B_x.$$

We now prove that \mathcal{F}_t has the announced properties, starting with the obvious ones. The fact that $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}$ is obvious since $\gamma_x^0(s) = \varphi(x)v$ for all s .

When x is near C , $Df(x) = \varphi(x)$ since \mathcal{F} is holonomic near C . In addition, $\gamma_x^t(s) = \varphi(x)v$ for all s and t , hence B_x vanishes. Hence $\mathcal{F}_t(x) = \mathcal{F}(x)$ for all t when x is near C .

Outside of K_1 , ρ vanishes. Hence $f_t(x) = f(x)$ for all t , and $\gamma_x^{t\rho(x)}(s) = \varphi(x)v$ for all s and t , and $\varphi_t(x) = \varphi(x)$.

The distance between $f(x)$ and $f_t(x)$ is zero outside of K_1 which is compact, and $O(1/N)$, so it is less than ε for N large enough.

We now turn to the interesting parts. The first one is that each \mathcal{F}_t is a formal solution of \mathcal{R} . We already know that \mathcal{F}_t coincides with \mathcal{F} , which is a formal solution, outside of the compact set K_1 . We set

$$\mathcal{F}'_t(x) = (f(x), \varphi(x) + [\gamma_x^{t\rho(x)}(N\pi(x)) - \varphi(x)v] \otimes \pi).$$

Since \mathcal{R} is open, and $K_1 \times [0, 1]$ is compact and \mathcal{F}_t is within $O(1/N)$ of \mathcal{F}'_t , it suffices to prove that \mathcal{F}'_t is a formal solution for all t . This is guaranteed by the definition of the slice $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(x), \pi, v)$ to which $\gamma_x^{t\rho(x)}(N\pi(x))$ belongs.

Finally, let's prove that \mathcal{F}_1 is $E' \oplus \mathbb{R}v$ -holonomic near K_0 . Since $\rho = 1$ near K_0 , we have, for x near K_0 ,

$$Df_1(x) = Df(x) + [\gamma_x^1(N\pi(x)) - Df(x)v] \otimes \pi + \frac{1}{N}B_x,$$

and

$$\varphi_1(x) = \varphi(x) + [\gamma_x^1(N\pi(x)) - \varphi(x)v] \otimes \pi + \frac{1}{N}B_x.$$

Let p be the projection of E onto $\ker \pi$ along v , so that $\text{Id}_E = p + v \otimes \pi$. We can rewrite the above formulas as

$$Df_1(x) = Df(x) \circ p + \gamma_x^1(N\pi(x)) \otimes \pi + \frac{1}{N}B_x,$$

and

$$\varphi_1(x) = \varphi(x) \circ p + \gamma_x^1(N\pi(x)) \otimes \pi + \frac{1}{N}B_x.$$

So we see the difference is $Df(x) \circ p - \varphi(x) \circ p$ which vanishes on E' since \mathcal{F} is E' -holonomic near K_0 , and vanishes on v since $p(v) = 0$. \square

2.3 Ample differential relations

Definition 2.12. A subset Ω of a real vector space E is ample if the convex hull of each connected component of Ω is the whole E .

Lemma 2.13. The complement of a linear subspace of codimension at least 2 is ample.

Proof. Let F be subspace of E with codimension at least 2. Let F' be a complement subspace. Its dimension is at least 2 since it is isomorphic to E/F and $\dim(E/F) = \text{codim}(F) \geq 2$. First note the complement of F is path-connected. Indeed let x and y be points outside F . Decomposing on $F \oplus F'$, we get $x = u + u'$ and $y = v + v'$ with $u' \neq 0$ and $v' \neq 0$. The segments from x to u' and y to v' stay outside F , so it suffices to connect u' and v' in $F' \setminus \{0\}$. If the segment from u' to v' doesn't contain the origin then we are done.

Otherwise $v' = \mu u'$ for some (negative) u' . Since $\dim(F') \geq 2$ and $u' \neq 0$, there exists $f \in F'$ which is linearly independent from u' , hence from v' . We can then connect both u' and v' to f by a segment away from zero.

We now turn to ampleness. The connectedness result reduces to prove that every e in E is in the convex hull of $E \setminus F$. If e is not in F then it is the convex combination of itself with coefficient 1 and we are done. Now assume e is in F . The codimension assumption guarantees the existence of a subspace G such that $\dim(G) = 2$ and $G \cap F = \{0\}$. Let (g_1, g_2) be a basis of G . We set $p_1 = e + g_1$, $p_2 = e + g_2$, $p_3 = e - g_1 - g_2$. All these points are in $E \setminus F$ and $e = p_1/3 + p_2/3 + p_3/3$. \square

Definition 2.14. *A first order differential relation \mathcal{R} is ample if all its slices are ample.*

Lemma 2.15. *Let \mathcal{F} be a formal solution of \mathcal{R} . Let $K_1 \subset E$ be a compact subset, and let K_0 be a compact subset of the interior of K_1 . Assume \mathcal{F} is holonomic near a closed subset C of E . Let ε be a positive real number.*

If \mathcal{R} is open and ample then there is a homotopy \mathcal{F}_t such that:

1. $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}$
2. \mathcal{F}_t is a formal solution of \mathcal{R} for all t ;
3. $\mathcal{F}_t(x) = \mathcal{F}(x)$ for all t when x is near C or outside K_1 .
4. $d(\text{bs } \mathcal{F}_t(x), \text{bs } \mathcal{F}(x)) \leq \varepsilon$ for all t and all x ;
5. \mathcal{F}_1 is holonomic near K_0 .

Proof. This is a straightforward induction using Lemma 2.11. Let (e_1, \dots, e_n) be a basis of E , and let (π_1, \dots, π_n) be the dual basis. Let E'_i be the linear subspace of E spanned by (e_1, \dots, e_i) , for $1 \leq i \leq n$, and let E'_0 be the zero subspace of E . Each (π_i, e_i) is a dual pair and the kernel of π_i contains E'_{i-1} .

Lemma 2.11 allows to build a sequence of homotopies of formal solutions, each homotopy relating a formal solution which is E'_i -holonomic to one which is E'_{i+1} -holonomic (always near K_0). The shortness condition is always satisfied because \mathcal{R} is ample. Each homotopy starts where the previous one stopped, stay at C^0 distance at most ε/n , and is relative to C and the complement of K_1 .

It then suffices to do a smooth concatenation of these homotopies. We first pre-compose with a smooth map from $[0, 1]$ to itself that fixes 0 and 1 and has vanishing derivative to all orders at 0 and 1. Then we precompose by affine isomorphisms from $[0, 1]$ to $[i/n, (i+1)/n]$ before joining them. \square

2.4 Parametricity for free

In many cases, relative parametric h -principles can be deduced from relative non-parametric ones with a larger source. Let E , P and F be real normed vector spaces, with P seen as a parameter space. Denote by Ψ the map from $J^1(E \times P, F)$ to $J^1(E, F)$ sending (x, p, y, ψ) to $(x, y, \psi \circ \iota_{x,p})$ where $\iota_{x,p} : E \rightarrow E \times P$ sends v to $(v, 0)$.

To any family of sections $F_p : x \mapsto (f_p(x), \varphi_{p,x})$ of $J^1(E, F)$, we associate the section \bar{F} of $J^1(E \times P, F)$ sending (x, p) to $\bar{F}(x, p) := (f_p(x), \varphi_{p,x} \oplus \partial f / \partial p(x, p))$.

Lemma 2.16. *In the above setup, we have:*

- \bar{F} is holonomic at (x, p) if and only if F_p is holonomic at x .
- F is a family of formal solutions of some $\mathcal{R} \subset J^1(E, F)$ if and only if \bar{F} is a formal solution of $\mathcal{R}^P := \Psi^{-1}(\mathcal{R})$.
- If \mathcal{R} is ample then, for any parameter space P , \mathcal{R}^P is also ample.

Proof. For the first part, the derivative of \bar{F} is $\partial f / \partial x(x, p) \oplus \partial f / \partial p(x, p)$, which is equal to \bar{F}_φ iff $\partial f / \partial x(x, p) = f_\varphi$.

The second part follows from $\Psi \circ \bar{F}(x, p) = F_p(x)$.

Now assume \mathcal{R} is ample. We fix $\sigma = (x, y, \psi)$ in \mathcal{R}^P . For any $\lambda = (\lambda_E, \lambda_P) \in E^* \times P^*$ and $v = (v_E, v_P) \in E \times P$ such that $\lambda(v) = 1$, we need to prove that $\text{Conv } \mathcal{R}_{\sigma, \lambda, v}^P = F$. Unfolding the definitions gives:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\sigma, \lambda, v}^P = \text{Conn}_{\varphi(v)} \{ w \in F ; (x, y, \psi \circ \iota_{x, p} + (w - \psi(v)) \otimes \lambda_E) \in \mathcal{R} \}.$$

A degenerate but easy case is when $\lambda_E = 0$. Then the condition on w becomes $\psi \circ \iota_{x, p} \in \mathcal{R}$, which is true by definition of \mathcal{R}^P , so $\mathcal{R}_{\sigma, \lambda, v}^P = F$.

We now assume λ_E is not zero and choose $u \in E$ such that $\lambda_E(u) = 1$. We then have $\mathcal{R}_{\sigma, \lambda, v}^P = \mathcal{R}_{\Psi\sigma, \lambda_E, u} + \psi(v) - \psi \circ \iota_{x, p}(u)$. Because \mathcal{R} is ample and taking convex hull commutes with translation, we get that $\text{Conv } \mathcal{R}_{\sigma, \lambda, v}^P = F$. \square

2.5 Application to Smale's theorem

The local theory of this chapter is already enough to deduce Smale's sphere eversion theorem. In this section E denote a finite dimensional real vector space equipped with an inner product. Later we will assume it is 3-dimensional. We denote by \mathbb{S} the unit sphere in E .

Although we want to study immersions of \mathbb{S} into E , we want to work only with functions defined on the whole E . So we introduce a slightly artificial relation. We denote by B the open ball with radius 9/10 around the origin in E .

$$\mathcal{R} := \{ (x, y, \varphi) \in J^1(E, E) \mid x \notin B \Rightarrow \varphi|_{x^\perp} \text{ is injective} \}.$$

Of course solutions of this relation restrict to immersions of \mathbb{S} .

Lemma 2.17. *The relation \mathcal{R} above is open.*

Proof. The main task is to fix $x_0 \notin B$ and $\varphi_0 \in L(E, E)$ which is injective on x_0^\perp and prove that, for every x close to x_0 and φ close to φ_0 , φ is injective on x^\perp . This is a typical situation where geometric intuition makes it feel like there is nothing to prove.

One difficulty is that the subspace x^\perp moves with x . We reduce to a fixed subspace by considering the restriction to x_0^\perp of the orthogonal projection onto x^\perp . One can check this is an isomorphism as long as x is not perpendicular to x_0 . More precisely, we consider $f: J^1(E, E) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times L(x_0^\perp, E)$ which sends (x, y, φ) to $(\langle x_0, x \rangle, \varphi \circ \text{pr}_{x^\perp} \circ j_0)$ where j_0 is the inclusion of x_0^\perp into E . The set U of injective linear maps is open in $L(x_0^\perp, E)$ and the map f is continuous hence the preimage of $\{0\}^c \times U$ is open. This is good enough for us because injectivity of $\varphi \circ \text{pr}_{x^\perp} \circ j_0$ implies injectivity of φ on the image of $\text{pr}_{x^\perp} \circ j_0$ which is x^\perp whenever $\langle x_0, x \rangle \neq 0$. \square

Lemma 2.18. *The relation \mathcal{R} above is ample.*

Proof. The core fact here is that if one fixes vector spaces F and F' , a dual pair (π, v) on F and an injective linear map $\varphi: F \rightarrow F'$ then the updated map $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$ is injective if and only if w is not in $\varphi(\ker \pi)$. First we assume $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, \varphi(u))$ is injective for some u in $\varphi(\ker \pi)$ and derive a contradiction. We have $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, \varphi(u))v = \varphi(u)$ by the general definition of updating and also $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, \varphi(u))u = \varphi(u)$ since u is in $\ker \pi$. Hence injectivity of φ ensure $u = v$, which is absurd since $\pi(u) = 0$ and $\pi(v) = 1$. Conversely assume w is not in $\varphi(\ker \pi)$ and let us prove $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$ is injective. Assume x is in the kernel of $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$. Decompose $x = u + tv$ with $u \in \ker \pi$ and t a real number. We have $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)(x) = \varphi(u) + tw$. Hence our assumption on x implies t vanishes otherwise we would have $w = -t^{-1}\varphi(u)$ contradicting that w isn't in $\varphi(\ker \pi)$. This vanishing and the assumption on x then imply $\varphi(u) = 0$. Since φ is injective we conclude that $u = 0$ and finally $x = 0$.

We now turn to \mathcal{R} . It suffices to prove that for every $\sigma = (x, y, \varphi) \in \mathcal{R}$ and every dual pair $p = (\pi, v)$ on E , the slice $\mathcal{R}(\sigma, p)$ is ample. If x is in B then $\mathcal{R}(\sigma, p)$ is the whole E which is obviously ample. So we assume x is not in B . Since σ is in \mathcal{R} , φ is injective on x^\perp . The slice is the set of w such that $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$ is injective on x^\perp . Assume first $\ker \pi = x^\perp$. Then $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$ coincides with φ on x^\perp hence the slice is the whole E . Assume now that $\ker \pi \neq x^\perp$. The slice is not very easy to picture in this case. But one should remember that, up to affine isomorphism, the slice depends only on $\ker \pi$. More specifically, if we keep π but change v then the slice is simply translated in E . Here we replace v by the projection on x^\perp of the vector dual to π rescaled to keep the property $\pi(v) = 1$. What has been gained is that we now have $v \in x^\perp$ and $x^\perp = (x^\perp \cap \ker \pi) \oplus \mathbb{R}v$. Since φ is injective on x^\perp , $\varphi(x^\perp \cap \ker \pi)$ is a hyperplane in x^\perp and $\Upsilon_p(\varphi, w)$ is injective on x^\perp if and only if w is in the complement of $\varphi(x^\perp \cap \ker \pi)$ according to the core fact above. Since it is an hyperplane in x^\perp , it has codimension at least 2 in E hence its complement is ample. \square

Theorem 2.19 (Smale 1958). *There is a homotopy of immersion of \mathbb{S}^2 into \mathbb{R}^3 from the inclusion map to the antipodal map $a: q \mapsto -q$.*

Proof. We denote by ι the inclusion of \mathbb{S}^2 into \mathbb{R}^3 . We set $j_t = (1 - t)\iota + ta$. This is a homotopy from ι to a (but not an immersion for $t = 1/2$). Using the canonical trivialization of the tangent bundle of \mathbb{R}^3 , we can set, for $(q, v) \in T\mathbb{S}^2$, $G_t(q, v) = \text{Rot}_{Oq}^{\pi t}(v)$, the rotation around axis Oq with angle πt . The family $\sigma: t \mapsto (j_t, G_t)$ is a homotopy of formal immersions relating $j^1\iota$ to j^1a . Those formal solutions are holonomic when t is zero or one, so we can reparametrize the family to make such it is holonomic when t is close to zero or one. Then we can extend it to a homotopy of formal solutions of \mathcal{R} using a suitable cut-off ensuring smoothness near the origin. The relation \mathcal{R} is ample according to Lemma 2.18 and then Lemma 2.16 ensures its 1-parameter version $\mathcal{R}^\mathbb{R}$ is also ample. The relation \mathcal{R} is open according to Lemma 2.17 hence $\mathcal{R}^\mathbb{R}$ is also ample. So we can use Lemma 2.15 to deform our family of formal solutions into a holonomic one. \square