

# Introduction to h-principle

Main question: Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a class of geometric str. Fix manifold  $M$ .

What is the weak homotopy type of

$$\text{Sol}_{\mathcal{R}}(M) \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{geometric structures of} \\ \text{class } \mathcal{R} \text{ in } M \end{array} \right\} ?$$

Concretely:

- is this  $\text{Sol}_{\mathcal{R}}(M)$ ?
- what is  $\pi_0$ ?
- $\pi_1, \dots$

Goal: understand patterns common to many  $\mathcal{R}$ .

# I. The language

Idea: • geometric strs  
" "

sections of some bundle  $E \rightarrow M$

satisfying a partial differential relation.

• we define  $J^r E \rightarrow M$   
" "

Taylor polys of sections of  $E$   
of order  $r$ .

a relation will be  $R \subset J^r E$

• Ex: Say we look at  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

Then the space of  $r$ -jets is:

$$J^r(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m) \cong \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m) \\ \times \dots \times \text{Sym}^r(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m)$$

given  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

$\rightsquigarrow$   $r$ -jet extension

$$j^r f: \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow J^r(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m) \\ x \longmapsto (x, f(x), D_x f, \dots, D_x^r f)$$

Obs: not all sections of  $J^r(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m)$

are of this form.

$$x \longmapsto (x, y(x), z_1(x), \dots, z_r(x))$$

Def: Given  $f, g: M \rightarrow E$  they are

- 0-tangent  $\equiv f(x) = g(x)$  at  $\forall x \in M$
- 1-tangent at  $x \equiv d_x f = d_x g$
- $r$ -tangent at  $x \equiv d^r f$  and  $d^r g$  are  $(r-1)$ -tangent at  $x$ .

Equivalence classes  $\equiv$   $r$ -jets

Exercise: TFAE:

- $f, g$  are  $r$ -tangent at  $x$
- in coordinates, they have same Taylor pol of order  $r$  at  $x$ .

Def: • Given  $E \rightarrow M$ , we define  $J^r E$ : as set:

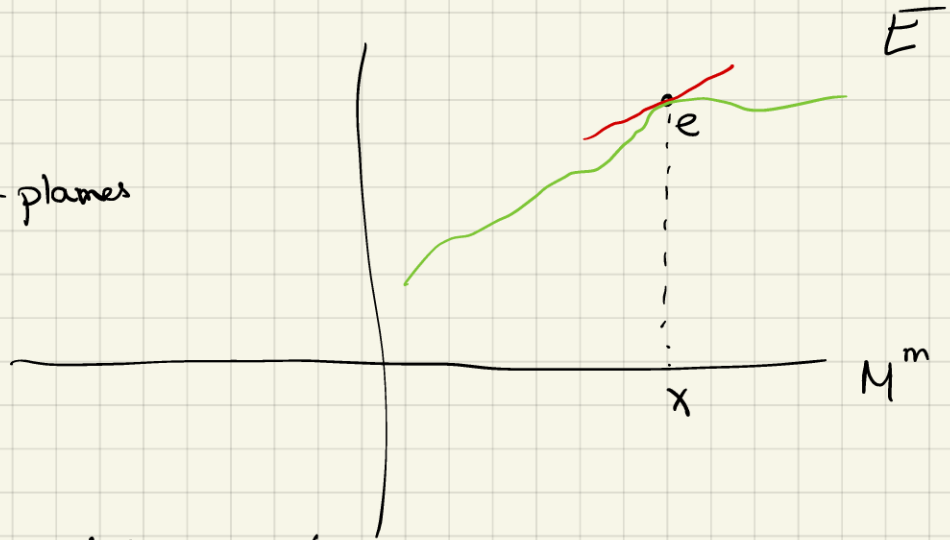
$$J_x^r E \equiv \left\{ f: U \rightarrow E \mid U \ni x \text{ open} \right\} / \text{r-tangency at } x.$$

- Smooth str of  $J^r E$  is given by requiring that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} J^r(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m) & \longrightarrow & J^r E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{R}^n & \longrightarrow & M \end{array} \quad \text{smooth charts.}$$

Ex: check these charts are smoothly compat. lde.

Ex:  $J'E \equiv$   
 graphical m-planes  
 in  $TE$



$$J'(R, R) = \{ (x, y, z) \}$$

slope

Def: A differential relation is a subset  $R \subset J^r E$ .

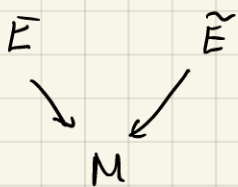
• A solution is  $f: M \rightarrow E$  s.t.

$$j^r f: M \rightarrow R \subset J^r E.$$

• A formal solution is  $F: M \rightarrow R$

!  $F$  is a smooth collection of pointwise solutions (formally up to order  $r$ ) but need not patch to global solution.

Ex: A differential operator of order  $r$  is:



$$\Gamma(E) \xrightarrow{P} \Gamma(\tilde{E}) \text{ in such a way:}$$

symbol  $P = \sigma(P) \circ j^r$  where

$$\sigma(P): J^r E \rightarrow \tilde{E} \text{ bundle map.}$$

•  $j^r$  is universal diff operator

• Fix  $g: M \rightarrow \tilde{E}$  then

$$\{ f: M \rightarrow E \mid P(f) = g \} \equiv \text{solutions of relation} \\ = \{ \sigma(P)(j^r f) = g \} \quad \{ \sigma(P)^{-1}(g) \} \subset J^r E$$

Ex: •  $f: M \rightarrow N$  is an immersion  
 if  $\text{rank}(df) = \dim(M)$

$\rightsquigarrow$  relation  $R_{\text{imm}} \subset J^1(M, N)$

$$\left\{ d_x f \mid d_x f \text{ has rank} = \dim(M) \right\}$$

• formal solutions of  $R_{\text{imm}}$  are:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} TM & \xrightarrow{F} & TN \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ M & \xrightarrow{F} & N \end{array} \mid \text{rank}(F) = \dim(M) \right\}$$

=  $\text{Mon}(TM, TN)$  ∇ there is no geometry here

"E" =  $M \times N \rightarrow M$

Main goal:

(scanning map)

$$\text{Sols}_R(M) \xrightarrow{i} \text{Sols}_R^F(M)$$

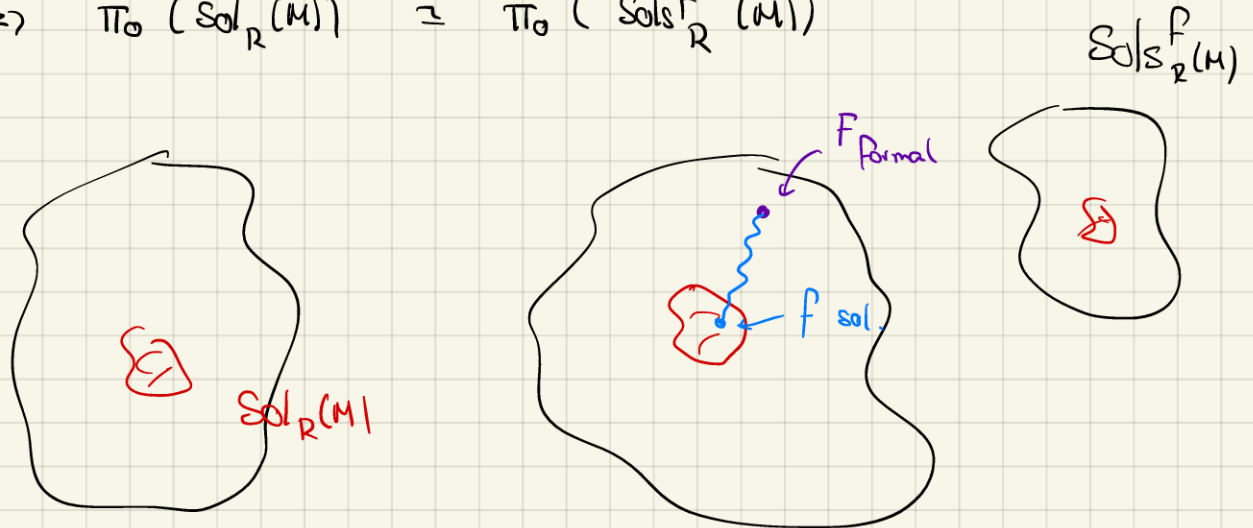
" " " "  $\{ \text{solutions of } R \text{ on } M \} \quad \{ \text{formal sols} \} = \Gamma(R)$

$$F \xrightarrow{\quad} j^r F$$

we will say that  $R$  satisfies the h-principle  
 if  $i$  is a weak hom. eq. homotopy principle

• if we have weak eq.

$$\Rightarrow \pi_0(\text{Sol}_R(M)) \cong \pi_0(\text{Sols}_R^F(M))$$



•  $i$  being a weak hom. eq. is a local-global idea.

$F_{\text{formal}}$  homotopy  $\rightarrow$   $f_{\text{solution}}$   
 (pointwise infinitesimal sol) solution

Def: A differential relation is Diff-invariant if

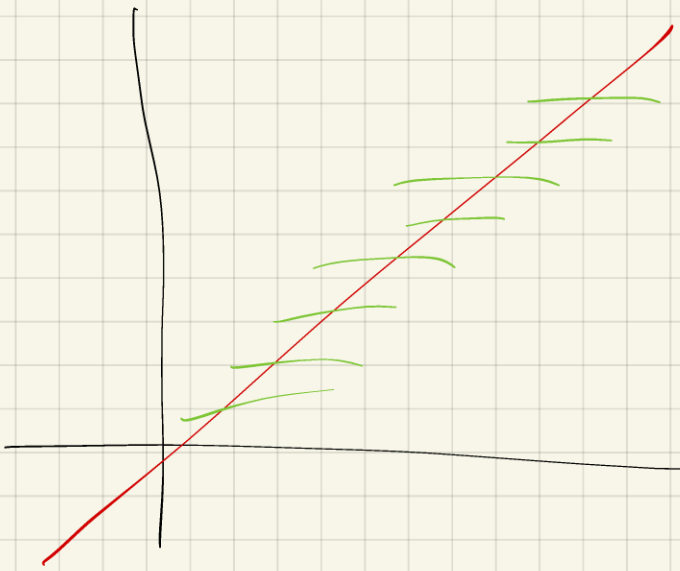
• the bundle  $E \rightarrow M$  is natural

( $\text{Diff}(M)$  lifts to  $E$ )

• since  $J^r E$  is natural, we want  $R$  to be invariant under  $\text{Diff}(M)$ .

Ex:  $(M, g_M)$ ,  $(N, g_N)$  Riemannian

$\{ \text{isometric maps } M \rightarrow N \}$  not Diff-invariant



$$\begin{aligned} \overline{D}^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) &\cong \mathbb{R}^3 \\ &\cup \\ \mathbb{R} &= \{z=0\} \end{aligned}$$

slope ↙