### Definable $C^r$ groups and proper definable actions

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#### **Abstract**

Let  $\mathcal{M}=(\mathbb{R},+,\cdot,<,\dots)$  be an o-minimal expansion of the standard structure  $\mathcal{R}=(\mathbb{R},+,\cdot,<)$  of the field of real numbers. Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group and H a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G. We prove that if  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^\omega$  (resp.  $C^\infty$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , then the orbit map  $\pi: G \to G/H$  has a principal definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle structure.

Moreover we prove that every proper definable G set X has only finitely many orbit types and that X can be covered by finitely many definable tubes.

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#### 1. Introduction.

Nash manifolds, Nash maps and Nash groups have been studied in [15], [17], [18], [11], [5].

Let  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, <, \cdots)$  denote an ominimal expansion on the standard structure  $\mathcal{R} = (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, <)$  of the field of real numbers. The term "definable" means "definable with parameters in  $\mathcal{M}$ ". General references on o-minimal structures are [2], [3], [16]. Any definable category is a generalization of the semialgebraic category and the definable category on  $\mathcal{R}$  coincides with the semialgebraic one. It is known in [14] that there exist uncountably many o-minimal expansions on  $\mathcal{R}$ . Nash manifolds, Nash maps and Nash groups are definable  $C^{\omega}$  manifolds, definable  $C^{\omega}$  maps and definable  $C^{\omega}$  groups in  $\mathcal{R}$ , respectively, and we can replace  $C^{\omega}$  by

 $C^{\infty}$ . Everything is considered in  $\mathcal{M}$  and all definable maps are assumed to be continuous.

In this paper we prove that if  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , then the orbit map  $\pi : G \to G/H$  has a principal definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle structure. Moreover we prove that every proper definable G set X has only finitely many orbit types and that X can be covered by finitely many definable tubes.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group, H a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G and K a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of H. Let  $\pi$ :  $G/K \to G/H$  be the map induced by the inclusion of cosets. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \le r < \infty$ , then  $(G/K, \pi, G/H, H/K, H/K_0)$  is a definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle, where  $K_0$  denotes the largest

subgroup of K normal in H.

Corollary 1.2. Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group, H a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G,  $\pi$ :  $G \to G/H$  the orbit map. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \le r < \infty$ , then  $(G, \pi, G/H, H)$  is a principal definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle.

The  $C^{\infty}$  (resp.  $C^{0}$ ) version of this corollary is obtained in [7] (resp. [9]).

Let G be a definable group. A definable G set means a pair consisting of a definable set X and a group action  $\phi: G \times X \to X$  such that  $\phi$  is definable. A definable map between definable sets is called definably proper if the inverse image of every compact definable set is compact. We call a definable G set X a proper definable G set if the map  $G \times X \to X \times X$  defined by  $(g, x) \mapsto (gx, x)$  is definably proper.

Let G be a definable group. We can define *orbit types* as well as G is compact.

**Theorem 1.3.** Let G be a definable group. Then every proper definable G set has only finitely many orbit types.

Let G be a definable group, X a proper definable G set and H a compact definable subgroup of G. A subset S of X is called a definable H slice if GS is a definable open subset of X and there exists a definable Gmap  $f:GS \to G/H$  such that  $f^{-1}(eH) =$ S. We call GS a definable tube. For each  $x \in X$ , a definable slice at x means a definable  $G_x$  slice S in X such that  $x \in S$ .

**Theorem 1.4.** Let G be a definable group and X a proper definable G set. Then there exists a definable slice at every point and X can be covered by finitely many definable tubes.

A special case of Theorem 1.4 is proved in [9].

Finiteness of definable tubes in Theorem 1.4 and the proof of 1.2 [9] prove the following corollary.

Corollary 1.5. Let G be a definable group and X a proper definable G set. If X

has only one orbit type G/H, then  $(X, \pi, X/G, G/H, N(H)/H)$  is a definable fiber bundle, where  $\pi: X \to X/G$  is the orbit map and N(H) denotes the normalizer of H in G.

A definable subgroup of some  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is called a *definable linear group*. By [12] and [13], we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.6.** Let G be a definable linear group and X a proper definable G set. Then X is definably G imbeddable into some representation of G.

#### 2. Preliminaries.

Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  be definable sets. We say that a continuous map  $f: X \to Y$  is definable if the graph of f  $(\subset X \times Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m)$  is definable. Let  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  be definable open sets and  $0 \le r \le \omega$ . A  $C^r$  map  $f: U \to V$  is called a definable  $C^r$  map if it is definable. A definable  $C^r$  map  $h: U \to V$  is called a definable  $C^r$  map  $h: U \to V$  is called a definable  $C^r$  map  $h: U \to V$  is called a definable  $C^r$  map  $h: U \to V$  is there exists a definable  $C^r$  map  $h: U \to U$  such that  $h \circ k = id_V$  and  $k \circ h = id_U$ .

Recall definable  $C^r$  manifolds, definable  $C^r$  groups and definable  $C^rG$  manifolds [10].

**Definition 2.1.** Suppose that  $0 \le r \le \omega$ .

- (1) A definable subset X of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called a d-dimensional definable  $C^r$  submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  if for any  $x \in X$  there exists a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism (a definable homeomorphism if r = 0)  $\phi_x$  from some definable open neighborhood  $U_x$  of the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  onto some definable open neighborhood  $V_x$  of x in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\phi_x(0) = x, \phi(\mathbb{R}^d \cap U_x) = X \cap V_x$ . Here  $\mathbb{R}^d$  denotes the subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  those whose the last (n-d) components are
- (2) A definable  $C^r$  manifold X of dimension d is a  $C^r$  manifold with a finite system of charts  $\{\phi_i: U_i \to \mathbb{R}^d\}$  such that for each i and j,  $\phi_i(U_i \cap U_j)$  is a definable open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and the map  $\phi_j \circ \phi_i^{-1} | \phi_i(U_i \cap U_j) : \phi_i(U_i \cap U_j) \to \phi_j(U_i \cap U_j)$  is a definable

 $C^r$  diffeomorphism (a definable homeomorphism if r=0). We call this atlas definable  $C^r$ . Definable  $C^r$  manifolds with compatible atlases are identified. A subset Y of X is said to be definable if each  $\phi_i(U_i \cap Y)$  is a definable subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . A definable subset Z of X is called a k-dimensional definable  $C^r$  submanifold of X if each point  $x \in Z$  there exist a definable open neighborhood  $U_x$  of x in X and a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism  $\phi_x$  from  $U_x$  to some definable open subset  $V_x$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $\phi_x(x) = 0$  and  $U_x \cap Y = \phi_x^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^k \cap V_x)$ , where  $\mathbb{R}^k \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is the vectors whose last (d-k) components are zero.

- (3) Let X (resp. Y) be a definable  $C^r$  manifold with definable  $C^r$  charts  $\{\phi_i: U_i \to \mathbb{R}^n\}_i$  (resp.  $\{\psi_j: V_j \to \mathbb{R}^m\}_j$ ). A  $C^r$  map  $f: X \to Y$  is said to be a definable  $C^r$  map if for any i and j  $\phi_i(f^{-1}(V_j) \cap U_i)$  is definable and open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and the map  $\psi_j \circ f \circ \phi_i^{-1}: \phi_i(f^{-1}(V_j) \cap U_i) \to \mathbb{R}^m$  is a definable  $C^r$  map.
- (4) Let X and Y be definable  $C^r$  manifolds. We say that X is definably  $C^r$  diffeomorphic to Y (definably homeomorphic to Y if r=0) if one can find definable  $C^r$  maps  $f: X \to Y$  and  $h: Y \to X$  such that  $f \circ h = id_Y$  and  $h \circ f = id_X$ .
- (5) A definable  $C^r$  manifold is said to be af fine if it is definably  $C^r$  diffeomorphic (definably homeomorphic if r = 0) to a definable  $C^r$  submanifold of some  $\mathbb{R}^l$ .
- **Remark 2.2.** (a) The definition of definable subsets of a definable  $C^r$  manifold X does not depend on the choice of definable  $C^r$  charts of X.
- (b) By o-minimality, a definable  $C^r$  submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  admits a finite family of definable  $C^r$  charts, thus it is of course a definable  $C^r$  manifold. In Definition 2.1 (2), by o-minimality, Z is covered by finitely many such neighborhoods. Hence Z is also a definable  $C^r$  manifold.
- (c) We can consider a definable  $C^r$  manifold X with possibly different dimensions on different connected components of X. In this paper, we assume that every connected component of a definable  $C^r$  manifold has the same dimension.

#### **Definition 2.3.** Let $0 < r < \omega$ .

(1) A group G is called a definable  $C^r$  group (resp. an affine definable  $C^r$  group) if G is a definable  $C^r$  manifold (resp. an affine definable  $C^r$  manifold) and that the multiplication  $G \times G \to G$  and the inversion  $G \to G$  are definable  $C^r$  maps.

Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group.

- (2) A subgroup H of G is called definable if it is a definable subset of G.
- (3) A subgroup K of G is said to be a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G if K is a definable  $C^r$  submanifold of G.
- (4) A group homomorphism (resp. An group isomorphism) between two definable  $C^r$  groups is a definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism (resp. a definable  $C^r$  group isomorphism) if it is a definable  $C^r$  map (resp. a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism (a definable homeomorphism if r = 0)).
- (5) A definable  $C^rG$  manifold is a pair  $(X, \theta)$  consisting of a definable  $C^r$  manifold X and a group action  $\theta$  of G on X such that  $\theta: G \times X \to X$  is a definable  $C^r$  map. For simplicity of notation, we write X instead of  $(X, \theta)$ .
- (6) A definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism (resp. A definable homeomorphism) is a definable  $C^rG$  diffeomorphism (resp. a definable G homeomorphism) if it is a G map.

Remark that every definable subgroup of a definable group is closed. The converse is not true because  $\mathbb Z$  is a closed subgroup of  $\mathbb R$  but not definable.

**Example 2.4.** Affine algebraic groups and the identity component of an affine algebraic group are definable  $C^{\omega}$  groups. Moreover every Nash group is a definable  $C^{\omega}$  group.

# 3. Definable $C^r$ groups and definable $C^r$ fiber bundles.

It is known that  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^r$  cell decomposition for any non-negative integer

(7.3.3.2 [2]). We say that  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition if we can take  $r = \omega$  (resp.  $r = \infty$ ).

**Theorem 3.1** (2.15 [7]). Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , then every definable subgroup of G is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G.

**Proposition 3.2.** Let  $f: G \to H$  be a definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 < r < \infty$ , then

- (1) Kerf is a normal definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G.
  - (2) f(G) is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of H.
- (3) If  $H_1$  is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of H, then  $f^{-1}(H_1)$  is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G.

Recall the definition of definable fiber bundles [9].

- **Definition 3.3.** (1) A topological fiber bundle  $\eta = (E, p, X, F, K)$  is called a *definable fiber bundle* over X with fiber F and structure group K if the following two conditions are satisfied:
  - (a) The total space E is a definable space, the base space X is a definable set, the structure group K is a definable group, the fiber F is a definable set with an effective definable K action, and the projection  $p: E \to X$  is a definable map.
  - (b) There exists a finite family of local trivializations  $\{U_i, \phi_i : p^{-1}(U_i) \rightarrow U_i \times F\}_i$  of  $\eta$  such that each  $U_i$  is a definable open subset of X and  $\{U_i\}_i$  is a finite open covering of X. For any  $x \in U_i$ , let  $\phi_{i,x} : p^{-1}(x) \rightarrow F, \phi_{i,x}(z) = \pi_i \circ \phi_i(z)$ , where  $\pi_i$  stands for the projection  $U_i \times F \rightarrow F$ . For any i and j with  $U_i \cap U_j \neq \emptyset$ , the transition function  $\theta_{ij} := \phi_{j,x} \circ \phi_{i,x}^{-1} : U_i \cap U_j \rightarrow K$  is a definable map. We call these trivializations definable.

Definable fiber bundles with compatible definable local trivializations are identified.

- (2) Let  $\eta = (E, p, X, F, K)$  and  $\zeta = (E', p', X', F, K)$  be definable fiber bundles whose definable local trivializations are  $\{U_i, \phi_i\}_i$  and  $\{V_j, \psi_j\}_j$ , respectively. A definable map  $\overline{f} : E \to E'$  is said to be a definable morphism if the following two conditions are satisfied:
  - (a) The map  $\overline{f}$  covers a definable map, namely there exists a definable map  $f: X \to X'$  such that  $f \circ p = p' \circ \overline{f}$ .
  - (b) For any i, j and for any  $x \in U_i \cap f^{-1}(V_j)$ , the map  $f_{ij}(x) := \psi_{j,f(x)} \circ \overline{f} \circ \phi_{i,x}^{-1} : F \to F$  lies in K, and  $f_{ij} : U_i \cap f^{-1}(V_j) \to K$  is a definable map.

We say that a bijective definable morphism  $\overline{f}: E \to E'$  is a definable equivalence if it covers a definable homeomorphism  $f: X \to X'$  and  $(\overline{f})^{-1}: E' \to E$  is a definable morphism covering  $f^{-1}: X' \to X$ . A definable equivalence  $\overline{f}: E \to E'$  is called a definable isomorphism if X = X' and  $f = id_X$ .

- (3) A continuous section  $s: X \to E$  of a definable fiber bundle  $\eta = (E, p, X, F, K)$  is a definable section if for any i, the map  $\phi_i \circ s|U_i: U_i \to U_i \times F$  is a definable map.
- (4) We say that a definable fiber bundle  $\eta = (E, p, X, F, K)$  is a principal definable fiber bundle if F = K and the K action on F is defined by the multiplication of K. We write (E, p, X, K) for (E, p, X, F, K).

Recall the definition of definable  $C^r$  fiber bundles [7].

**Definition 3.4** ([7]). Let  $1 \le r \le \omega$ .

(1) A definable fiber bundle  $\eta = (E, p, X, F, K)$  is a definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle if the total space E and the base space X

are definable  $C^r$  manifolds, the structure group K is a definable  $C^r$  group, the fiber F is a definable  $C^rK$  manifold with an effective action, the projection p is a definable  $C^r$  map and all transition functions of  $\eta$  are definable  $C^r$  maps. A principal definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle is defined similarly.

(2) Definable  $C^r$  morphisms, definable  $C^r$  equivalences, definable  $C^r$  isomorphisms between definable  $C^r$  fiber bundles and definable  $C^r$  sections of a definable  $C^r$  fiber bundle are defined similarly.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. By 1.3 [7], G/Kand G/H are definable  $C^r$  manifolds and the projections  $p_1: G \to G/K$  and  $p_2:$  $G \to G/H$  are definable  $C^r$  maps with  $p_2 =$  $\pi \circ p_1$ . By the construction of  $K_0$ ,  $K_0 =$  $\bigcap_{h\in H} hKh^{-1}$ . Thus  $K_0$  is a normal definable subgroup of K. Hence  $K_0$  is a normal definable  $C^r$  subgroup of H,  $H/K_0$  is a definable  $C^r$  group by 1.3 [7] and it acts effectively on H/K. Moreover the map  $\phi: H/K_0 \times$  $H/K \rightarrow H/K$  defined by  $\phi(hK_0, h'K) =$ hh'K gives an action of  $H/K_0$  on H/K. This map is definable, and it is also of class  $C^r$  because  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are piecewise definably  $C^r$ trivial (1.1 [7]) and thus  $\phi$  gives a definable  $C^r$  action of  $H/K_0$  on H/K.

By the proof of 1.3 [7], there exist a definable open subset U of G/H and  $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in G$  such that  $\{U_{g_i}\}_{i=1}^n$  is the definable coordinate neighborhoods of G/H, where  $U_{g_i} = g_i U$ . Let  $f: U \to G$  be a definable  $C^r$  section and let  $f_{g_i}: U_{g_i} \to G, f_{g_i}(x) = g_i f(g_i^{-1}x)$ . Then  $p_2 \circ f_{g_i}(x) = x$ . We can define a definable coordinate function  $\phi_{g_i}: U_{g_i} \times H/K \to \pi^{-1}(U_{g_i}), \phi_{g_i}(x,y) = f_{g_i}(x)y$ . This map is a definable  $C^r$  one and  $\pi \circ \phi_{g_i}(x,y) = x$ . The map  $p_{g_i}: \pi^{-1}(U_{g_i}) \to H/K$  defined by  $p_{g_i}(z) = (f_{g_i}(\pi(z)))^{-1}z$  is a definable  $C^r$  map such that  $p_{g_i}\phi_{g_i}(x,y) = y, \phi_{g_i}(\pi(z), p_{g_i}(z)) = z$ . Hence  $\psi_{g_i}: \pi^{-1}(U_{g_i}) \to U_{g_i} \times H/K, \psi_{g_i}(z) = (\pi(z), p_{g_i}(z))$  is the inverse map of  $\phi_{g_i}$  and  $\phi_{g_i}$  is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism between  $U_{g_i} \times H/K$  and  $\pi^{-1}(U_{g_i})$ .

If  $x \in U_{g_i} \cap U_{g_j}$ , then  $p_{g_j} \circ \phi_{g_i}(x, y) = (f_{g_j}(x))^{-1} (f_{g_i}(x)y) = ((f_{g_j}(x))^{-1} f_{g_i}(x))y$  is

a left translation of y by  $h'_{ij}(x) := (f_{g_j}(x))^{-1}$   $f_{g_i}(x)$ . Since  $p_2 \circ f_{g_i}(x) = p_2 \circ f_{g_j}(x) = x$ ,  $h'_{ij}(x) \in H$  and  $h'_{ij} : U_{g_i} \cap U_{g_j} \to H$  is a definable  $C^r$  map. The coordinate transformation  $h_{ij}$  in  $U_{g_i} \cap U_{g_j}$  is given by the composition of the projection  $H \to H/K_0$  and  $h'_{ij}$ .

**Theorem 3.5.** Let G be a definable  $C^r$  group and X a definable  $C^rG$  manifold with a transitive action. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , and  $x \in X$ , then  $G_x$  is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G and  $f: G/G_x \to X$ ,  $f(gG_x) = gx$  gives a definable  $C^rG$  diffeomorphism (a definable G homeomorphism if r = 0).

Proof. Since  $G_x = \{g \in G | gx = x\}$ ,  $G_x$  is a definable subgroup of G. Thus  $G_x$  is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of G by Theorem 3.1. By fundamental facts on transformation groups, f is a bijective G map. Let  $F: G \to X, F(g) = gx$ . Then F is definable and the graph of f is the image of that of F by  $\pi \times id_X$ , where  $\pi: G \to G_x$  denotes the orbit map. Thus f is definable. By the  $C^r$  cell decomposition, f is of class  $C^r$  in a definable open neighborhood of  $eG_x$ . Since the action is transitive, f is of class  $C^r$ . By the same argument,  $f^{-1}$  is of class  $C^r$ .

**Corollary 3.6.** Let  $f: G \to H$  be a surjective definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism between definable  $C^r$  groups. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \le r < \infty$ , then the map  $f: G/Kerf \to H$  defined by f(gKerf) = f(g) is a definable  $C^r$  group isomorphism.

**Corollary 3.7.** If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^{\omega}$  (resp.  $C^{\infty}$ ) cell decomposition or  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , then every bijective definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism between definable  $C^r$  groups is a definable  $C^r$  group isomorphism.

**Theorem 3.8.** Let  $r = \omega$  or  $\infty$  and G, H compact affine definable  $C^r$  groups. If  $f: G \to H$  is a Lie group homomorphism, then f is a definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism.

*Proof.* The graph  $\Gamma(f)$  of f is a closed subgroup of a compact affine definable  $C^r$ 

group  $G \times H$ . Thus  $\Gamma(f)$  is a Lie subgroup of  $G \times H$ . Since  $\Gamma(f)$  is compact,  $\Gamma(f)$  admits an algebraic group structure compatible with the Lie group structure. Thus  $\Gamma(f)$  is a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of  $G \times H$  because  $G \times H$  is affine. Therefore f is a definable  $C^r$  group homomorphism.

Corollary 3.9. Let  $r = \omega$  or  $\infty$  and G, H compact affine definable  $C^r$  groups.

- (1) If  $f: G \to H$  is a Lie group isomorphism, then f is a definable  $C^r$  group isomorphism.
- (2) G and H are topologically group isomorphic if and only if they are definable  $C^r$  group isomorphic.

Remark that in Theorem 3.8 and Corollary 3.9, we cannot drop the condition that G, H are affine.

**Theorem 3.10.** Let  $r = \omega$  or  $\infty$  and H a definable  $C^r$  subgroup of a compact affine definable  $C^r$  group G. If  $\mathcal{M}$  admits the  $C^r$  cell decomposition, then G/H is an affine definable  $C^rG$  manifold.

*Proof.* By 1.3 [7], G/H is a definable  $C^rG$  manifold. Since H is closed in G, H is a compact affine definable  $C^r$  group. Since G is affine, we can assume that G is a definable subset of some  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By 10.2.8 [2], G/H exists as a definable subset of some  $\mathbb{R}^l$ . Therefore G/H is affine.

The Nash version of Theorem 3.10 is proved in [11].

By [8], if  $0 \le r < \infty$ , then every definable  $C^r$  manifold is affine. Thus we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.11.** If  $0 \le r < \infty$ , then every definable  $C^r$  group is affine.

## 4. Proper definable actions.

We now define orbit types. We say that two homogeneous proper definable G sets

are equivalent if they are definably G homeomorphic. Let (G/H) denote the equivalence class of G/H. The set of all equivalence classes of homogeneous proper definable G sets has a natural order defined as  $(X) \geq (Y)$  if there exists a definable G map  $X \to Y$ . If (X) = (G/H) and (Y) = (G/K), then  $(X) \geq (Y)$  if and only if H is conjugate to a definable subgroup of K. The reflexivity and the transitivity clearly hold and the anti-symmetry is true by the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.1.** Let G be a definable group, H a definable subgroup of G and  $g \in G$ . If  $gHg^{-1} \subset H$ , then  $gHg^{-1} = H$ .

Proof. Let  $H_0$  denote the identity component of H. Then  $H_0$  is a normal definable subgroup of H. Since H has only finitely many connected components,  $H/H_0$  is a finite group. Since  $gHg^{-1} \subset H$ ,  $\phi_g: H/H_0 \to H/H_0$ ,  $\phi_g(hH_0) = ghg^{-1}H_0$  is a well-defined map. Moreover  $\phi_g$  is injective because  $\psi_g|H$  is injective and  $\psi_g(H_0) = H_0$ , where  $\psi_g: G \to G$ ,  $\psi_g(x) = gxg^{-1}$ . Thus  $\phi_g$  is an automorphism. In particular  $g(H/H_0)g^{-1} = H/H_0$ . Therefore  $gHg^{-1} = H$ .

Proof of Theorem 1.3. First assume that G is a definable solvable group. Since G acts on X properly, the isotropy subgroup  $G_x$  are definably compact. By [4], the uniform definable family  $\{G_x|x\in X\}$  of definably compact definable subgroups of G is contained in a maximal definably compact definable subgroup K of G. By [4], this family is finite.

Second assume that G is definably simple. By [12] and [13], G is a linear semialgebraic group. Moreover we may assume that the G action  $G \times X \to X$  is semialgebraic after replacing X by a suitable G/H such that (X) = (G/H). In this setup the result follows from by transfer from the topological setting.

By [12] and by the definably simple case, the result holds for the definably semi-simple case. The general case follows from the solvable case and the semi-simple case.  $\Box$ 

Let X be a definable set and A a definable subset of X. A definable strong

deformation retract from X to A is a definable map  $R: X \times [0,1] \to X$  such that R(x,0) = x for all  $x \in X$ , R(y,t) = y for all  $y \in Y, t \in [0,1]$  and R(X,1) = Y.

**Proposition 4.2.** Let X be a definable set and A a closed definable subset of X. Suppose that A is a definable strong deformation retract of X. Then for any definable open neighborhood U of A in X, there exist a definable closed neighborhood N of A in U and a definable map  $\rho: X \to U$  such that  $\rho|N=id$  and  $\rho(X-N) \subset U-N$ .

To prove Proposition 4.2, we need the following lemma and theorem.

**Lemma 4.3.** Let X be a definable set and  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  (resp.  $g: X \to \mathbb{R}$ ) a lower (resp. upper) semi-continuous function such that they have definable graphs and  $g(x) \le f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then there exists a definable function  $h: X \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(x) \le h(x) \le f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and g(x) < h(x) < f(x) whenever g(x) < f(x).

**Theorem 4.4.** Let X be a definable set and A a definable closed subset of X. Then every definable function f on A is extensible to a definable function F on X.

The semialgebraic version of Theorem 4.4 is Theorem 3 [1].

Proof. By 3.4 [6], there exist a definable open neighborhood U of A in X and a definable map  $r: U \to A$  such that r|A = id. Thus  $f \circ r$  is a definable extension of f. Take a definable open neighborhood V of A in X with  $\overline{V} \subset U$ ,  $\overline{V}$  denotes the closure of V in X. By 6.3.7 [2], we can find a definable partition of unity  $h_1, h_2: X \to \mathbb{R}$  subordinate to  $U, X - \overline{V}$ . Then the definable function  $F: X \to \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $F(x) = h_1(x)(f \circ r(x))$  is the required function.

Proof of Lemma 4.3. By the piecewise triviality theorem (9.1.7 [2]) and the definable triangulation theorem (8.2.9 [2]), there exists a definable triangulation  $(K, \tau)$  of X such that f and g are continuous on the interior of each simplex of K. We identify K

with X. We now construct  $h: X \to \mathbb{R}$  by induction on the skeleta of K. Let  $K^{(n)}$  denote the union of all simplexes of K whose dimension do not exceed n. Since  $K^0$  is finitely many points, clearly we have the required function h. Assume that we have a definable function  $h_1: K^{(n-1)} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(x) \leq h_1(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $x \in |K^{(n-1)}|$  and g(x) < h(x) < f(x) if  $g(x) \neq f(x)$ .

Let  $\delta$  be an n-dimensional simplex of K which is closed in K. Note that  $\delta$  is not always compact. Then the proof is reduced to find  $h: \delta \to \mathbb{R}$  satisfying the inequality condition and  $h|\partial \delta = h_1$ , where  $\partial \delta$  means the boundary of  $\delta$ .

We now first construct a lower semi-continuous function  $f': \delta \to \mathbb{R}$  and a upper semi-continuous function  $g': \delta \to \mathbb{R}$  such that they have definable graphs,  $g(x) \leq g'(x) \leq f'(x) \leq f(x)$  for all  $\delta$  and all the inequalities are strict if  $g(x) \neq f(x)$ . Let  $\alpha: int(\delta) \to (0, \infty)$  be the distance between x and  $\partial \delta$ . Define  $\alpha': int(\delta) \to [0, \infty)$  by  $\alpha'(x) = \min(\alpha(x), (f-g)(x)/3)$ . Then  $\alpha'$  is continuous and vanishes when it approaches the boundary of  $\delta$ . Hence it is continuously extensible to  $\delta$ . Define  $f', g': \delta \to \mathbb{R}$  by  $f'(x) = f(x) - \alpha'(x)$  and  $g'(x) = g(x) + \alpha'(x)$ .

We now construct  $h: \delta \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g'(x) \leq h(x) \leq f'(x)$ . By Theorem 4.4,  $h_1$ has a definable extension  $h_2: \delta \to \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $h_2$  is an extension of  $h_1$ ,  $g'(x) \leq h_2(x) \leq$ f'(x) for all  $x \in \partial \delta$ . We now modify  $h_2$  such that it satisfies the inequality on all  $\delta$ . Let  $f = \min(f', h_2)$  and  $\tilde{g} = \max(g', h_2)$ . We claim that  $\tilde{f}$  and  $\tilde{q}$  are continuous. Since f'and  $h_2$  are continuous in the interior of  $\delta$ , so is  $f|int(\delta)$ . Thus we have to show that  $f|\partial \delta$ is continuous. Let  $x \in \partial \delta$ . For a given a, bwith a < f(x) < b, we now prove that  $\{y \in$  $\delta |a < \tilde{f}(y) < b\}$  contains a neighborhood of x. Note that  $\{y \in \delta | \min(h_2, f')(y) > a\} =$  $\{y \in \delta | h_2(y) > a\} \cap \{y \in \delta | f'(y) > a\}, \{y \in \delta | f'(y) > a\}$  $\delta | \min(h_2, f')(y) < b \} = \{ y \in \delta | h_2(y) < b \} \cup$  $\{y \in \delta | f'(y) < b\}$ . Then  $\{y \in \delta | \min(h_2, f')\}$ (y) > a is open because  $h_2$  and f' is lower semi-continuous, and  $\{y \in \delta | \min(h_2, f')(y) \}$ < b} contains a neighborhood of x since an open set  $\{y \in \delta | h_2(y) < b\}$  contains x. Since  $\{y \in \delta | a < \tilde{f}(y) < b\} = \{y \in \delta | \min(h_2, f')(y) > a\} \cap \{y \in \delta | \min(h_2, f')(y) < b\}$ ,  $\tilde{f}$  is continuous at x. Thus  $\tilde{f}$  is continuous. Similarly  $\tilde{g}$  is continuous.

Clearly  $\tilde{f} \leq f'$ . Let  $h = \max(g', \tilde{f})$ . Then by a way similar to the above, h is continuous, and h satisfies  $g \leq g' \leq h \leq f' \leq f$ . By the definition of f' and g', if f(x) < g(x), then f(x) < h(x) < g(x).

Proof of Proposition 4.2. Let  $R: X \times [0,1] \to X$  be a definable strong deformation retract from X to A. Let  $g: X \to [0,1]$  be the function defined by  $g(x) = \inf\{r \in [0,1] | F(x,t) \in U \text{ for all } t \in (r,1]\}$ . Then g has the definable graph. We now prove that g is upper semi-continuous. We need to show that for every  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\{x \in X | g(x) < a\}$  is open. For  $x_0$  with  $g(x_0) < a$ , take b such that  $g(x_0) < b < a$ . By the definition of g,  $R(x_0,t) \in U$  for all  $t \in [b,1]$ . Since [b,1] is compact, there exists a definable open neighborhood V of  $x_0$  such that  $R(V \times [b,1]) \subset U$ . Since  $g(y) \leq b < a$ ,  $g^{-1}(\{y < a\})$  is open. Hence g is upper semi-continuous.

Since  $R(A \times [0,1]) = A \subset U$  and [0,1] is compact, there exists a definable closed neighborhood N of A such that  $R(N \times [0,1]) \subset U$ . Let  $f: X \to [0,1]$  be the function defined by  $f(x) = \inf\{r \in [g(x),1] | R(x,r) \in N\}$ . Then f is well defined, it has the definable graph, g(x) = f(x) = 0 for all  $x \in N$  and g(x) < f(x) for all  $x \notin N$ .

We now prove that f is lower semi-continuous. Let  $x_0 \not\in N$  and take a with  $g(x_0) < a < f(x_0)$ . Choose  $b,c \in [0,1]$  such that  $g(x_0) < b < a < c < f(x_0)$ . Since g is upper semi-continuous, there exists a open neighborhood V of  $x_0$  such that g(x) < b whenever  $x \in V$ . Since N is closed and [b,c] is compact, there exists a neighborhood V' of  $x_0$  such that  $R(V' \times [b,c]) \cap N = \emptyset$ . This implies that if  $x \in V'$  then f(x) > a. Hence f is lower semi-continuous on X - N. Since f|N=0, f is lower semi-continuous on X.

By Lemma 4.3, there exists definable function h such that  $g(x) \leq h(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and the inequalities become strict whenever  $g(x) \neq f(x)$ . Let  $\rho(x) = R(x, h(x))$ . Then  $\rho(x) = R(x, 0) = 0$  for all

N and if  $x \notin N$  then  $\rho(x) = R(x, h(x)) \in U - N$  because g(x) < h(x) < f(x).

Proof of Theorem 1.4. Let  $\pi: X \to \mathbb{R}$ X/G be the orbit map. By Theorem 1.3, X has only finitely many orbit types  $\{G/H_i|1\leq$  $i \leq n$ . Then the set  $X(H_i)$  of all points in X whose orbit type is  $(G/H_i)$  is a definable G subset of X. Hence each  $\pi(X(H_i))$ is a definable subset of X/G. By the piecewise triviality theorem (9.1.7 [2]), there exists a finite partition  $\{B_j\}_{j=1}^m$  of X/G and for each i there exists a definable homeomorphism  $k_j: \pi^{-1}(B_i) \to B_i \times \pi^{-1}(b_j)$  such that  $f|f^{-1}(B_j) = p_j \circ k_j$ , where  $b_j \in B_j$  and  $p_j$  denotes the projection  $B_i \times \pi^{-1}(b_i) \to B_i$ . Applying the definable triangulation theorem (8.2.9 [2]), we have a definable triangulation  $(K,\tau)$  of X/G compatible with  $B_1,\ldots,B_m$  $\pi(X(H_1)), \ldots, \pi(X(H_n))$ . We identify K with X/G. Then the following two properties hold.

- (1) For each simplex  $\delta \in K$ , there exists a definable section  $s: int(\delta) \to X$  of  $\pi: X \to X/G$ .
- (2) Every point in  $s(int(\delta))$  has the same isotropy subgroup.

Let  $x_0 \in X$  and  $b_0 = \pi(x_0)$ . Let  $St(b_0)$ denote the open star neighborhood of  $b_0$  in X/G = K and let  $St^{(k)}(b_0)$  be the k-th skeleton of  $St(b_0)$ . We now construct a definable G map  $\psi: \pi^{-1}(St(b_0)) \to G/H$ , where  $H = G_{x_0}$ . We proceed by induction on k. If k = 0, then  $\pi^{-1}(St^{(0)}(b_0)) = G(x_0)$ . Thus there exists a canonical definable G homeomorphism  $\psi^{(0)}: G(x_0) \to G/H$ . Assume that we have a definable G map  $\psi^{(k-1)}$ :  $\pi^{-1}(St^{(k-1)}(b_0)) \rightarrow G/H$ . It is enough to consider a k-dimensional simplex  $\delta$  such that  $int(\delta) \subset St^{(k)}(b_0)$ . For notational convenience, we simply write  $\delta$  instead of  $\delta \cap St^{(k)}$  $(b_0)$ . Let  $A = \delta \cap St^{(k-1)}(b_0)$ . By (1) there exists a definable section  $s: int(\delta) \to X$  of  $\pi$ . Let  $\tilde{\delta}$  denote the closure of  $s(int(\delta))$  in

We now prove that there exists a definable retraction  $\tilde{r}: \tilde{\delta} \to \tilde{\delta} \cap \pi^{-1}(A)$ .

First triangulate  $\tilde{\delta}$  and take the open regular neighborhood  $\tilde{U}$  of  $\tilde{\delta} \cap \pi^{-1}(A)$  in  $\tilde{\delta}$ . Since

 $\tilde{U}$  is open,  $U:=\pi(\tilde{U})$  is open in  $\delta$ . Since A is a definable strong deformation retract of  $\delta$ , Applying Proposition 4.2, there exist a closed definable neighborhood N of A in U and a definable map  $\rho:\delta\to U$  such that  $\rho(x)=x$  for all  $x\in N$  and  $\rho(\delta-N)\subset U-N$ . The map  $r':\tilde{\delta}\to\pi^{-1}(U)\cap\tilde{\delta}=\tilde{U}$  defined by

$$r'(x) = \begin{cases} s \circ \rho \circ \pi(x), & x \in \tilde{\delta} - \pi^{-1}(A) \\ x, & x \in \tilde{\delta} \cap \pi^{-1}(A) \end{cases}$$

is definable because  $\rho|N=id$  and  $s\circ\rho\circ$  $\pi(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \pi^{-1}(N-A) \cap \tilde{\delta}$ . Since the regular neighborhood  $\tilde{U}$  has a definable retraction to  $\tilde{\delta} \cap \pi^{-1}(A)$ , composing this retraction, we have a definable retraction  $\tilde{r}$ :  $\delta \to \delta \cap \pi^{-1}(A)$ . Since any element in  $\pi^{-1}(\delta)$ is of the form gx for some  $g \in G$  and  $x \in \delta$ , we can extend  $r := \psi^{(k-1)} \circ \tilde{r} : \tilde{\delta} \to G/H$  to a map  $r_G: \pi^{-1}(\delta) \to G/H, gx \mapsto gr(x)$ . Then  $r_G$  is a well-defined G map with definable graph. Since  $r_G$  is a G map,  $r_G$  is continuous. Hence  $r_G$  is a definable G map and this completes the inductive construction of a definable G map  $\psi: \pi^{-1}(St(b_0)) \to G/H$ . This shows the existence of a definable tube and a definable slice at  $x_0$ . Since the triangulation K is finite, X can be covered by finitely many definable tubes.

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