# Definable isotopies

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#### Abstract

Let X be a definable  $C^r$  manifold,  $Y_1, Y_2$  definably compact definable  $C^r$  submanifolds of X such that  $\dim Y_1 + \dim Y_2 < \dim X$  and  $Y_1$  has a trivial normal bundle. We prove that there exists a definable isotopy  $\{h_p\}_{p\in J}$  such that  $h_0 = id_X$  and  $h_1(Y_1) \cap Y_2 = \emptyset$ .

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## 1. Introduction.

Let  $\mathcal{N} = (R, +, \cdot, <, \dots)$  be an o-minimal expansion of a real closed field R. Everything is considered in  $\mathcal{N}$ , the term "definable" is used throughout in the sense of "definable with parameters in  $\mathcal{N}$ ", each definable map is assumed to be continuous and  $2 < r < \infty$ .

General references on o-minimal structures are [2], [3], also see [10].

In this paper we consider definable isotopies of definable  $C^r$  manifolds and gradient like vector fields of definable  $C^r$  Morse functions when  $2 \le r < \infty$ . Definable  $C^r$  Morse functions in an o-minimal expansion of the standard structure of a real closed field are considered in [9].

Definable  $C^r$  manifolds are studied in [9], [1], and definable  $C^rG$  manifolds are studied in [4]. If R is the field  $\mathbb{R}$  of real numbers, then definable  $C^rG$  manifolds are considered in [8], [7], [6] [5].

**Theorem 1.1** (10.7 [1]). Every definably compact definable  $C^r$  manifold X is de-

finably  $C^r$  diffeomorphic to a definable  $C^r$  submanifold of some  $R^n$ .

By Theorem 1.1, we may assume that a definably compact definable  $C^r$  manifold X is a definable  $C^r$  submanifold of some  $R^n$ .

Let X be a definable  $C^r$  manifold and J an open interval including  $[0,1]_R = \{x \in R | 0 \le x \le 1\}$ . A family  $\{h_t\}_{t \in J}$  of definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphisms of X is a definable isotopy of X if  $h_t$  is identity if  $t \le 0$ ,  $h_t = h_1$  is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism if  $t \ge 1$  and  $H: X \times J \to X \times J$ ,  $H(x,t) = (h_t(x),t)$  is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let X be a definable  $C^r$  manifold,  $Y_1, Y_2$  definably compact definable  $C^r$  submanifolds of X such that  $\dim Y_1 + \dim Y_2 < \dim X$  and  $Y_1$  has a trivial normal bundle. Then there exists a definable isotopy  $\{h_p\}_{p\in J}$  such that  $h_0 = id_X$  and  $h_1(Y_1) \cap Y_2 = \emptyset$ .

Let X be a definable  $C^r$  manifold. Then as in the standard version, we can define the tangent bundle TX of X. A definable  $C^{r-1}$  vector field is a definable  $C^{r-1}$  section of TX.

**Definition 1.3.** Let X be a definable  $C^r$  manifold and  $f: X \to R$  a definable Morse function. A definable  $C^{r-1}$  vector field  $\Xi$  on X is a gradient like vector field of f if the following two conditions are satisfied.

(1)  $(X \cdot f)(p) > 0$  if p is not a critical point of f.

(2) If p is a critical point of f with index  $\lambda$ , then there exists a definable coordinate neighborhood  $(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  such that  $f = -x_1^2 - \cdots - x_{\lambda}^2 + x_{\lambda+1}^2 + \cdots + x_n^2$  and  $\Xi$  is a gradient vector field of f.

**Theorem 1.4.** Let X be a definably compact definable  $C^r$  manifold and  $f: X \to R$  a definable Morse function. Then there exists a gradient like vector field of f.

#### 2. Preliminaries.

Let  $W_1 \subset R^n, W_2 \subset R^m$  be definable open sets and  $f: W_1 \to W_2$  a definable map. We say that f is a definable  $C^r$  map if f is of class  $C^r$ . A definable  $C^r$  map is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism if f is a  $C^r$  diffeomorphism.

**Definition 2.1.** A Hausdorff space X is an n-dimensional definable  $C^r$  manifold if there exist a finite open cover  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of X, finite open sets  $\{V_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of  $R^n$ , and a finite collection of homeomorphisms  $\{\phi_i: U_i \to V_i\}_{i=1}^k$  such that for any i, j with  $U_i \cap U_j \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\phi_i(U_i \cap U_j)$  is definable and  $\phi_j \circ \phi_i^{-1}: \phi_i(U_i \cap U_j) \to \phi_j(U_i \cap U_j)$  is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism. This pair  $(\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k, \{\phi_i: U_i \to V_i\}_{i=1}^k)$  of sets and homeomorphisms is called a definable  $C^r$  coordinate system.

A definable  $C^r$  manifold X is definably compact if for every  $a,b \in R \cup \{\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$  with a < b and for every definable map f:  $(a,b) \to X$ ,  $\lim_{x\to a+0} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x\to b-0} f(x)$  exist in X.

If  $R = \mathbb{R}$ , then for any definable  $C^r$  manifold X of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , X is compact if and only if it is definably compact. In general a definably

compact set is not necessarily compact. For example, if  $R = \mathbb{R}_{alg}$ , then  $[0,1]_{\mathbb{R}_{alg}} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_{alg} | 0 \le x \le 1\}$  is definably compact but not compact.

Let X be an m-dimensional definable  $C^r$  manifold and  $f: X \to R$  a definable  $C^r$  function. A point  $p \in X$  is a critical point of f if the differential of f at p is zero. If p is a critical point of f, then f(p) is called a critical value of f. Let p be a critical point of f and  $(U, \phi : (U, p) \to (V, 0))$  a definable  $C^r$  neighborhood around p. The critical point p is nondegenerate if the Hessian of  $f \circ \phi^{-1}$  at 0 is nonsingular. Direct computations show that the notion of nondegeniricity does not depend on the choice of a local coordinate neighborhood. We say that f is a definable Morse function if every critical point of f is nondegenerate.

## 3 Proof of our results

The following result is a definable version of Sard's Theorem.

**Theorem 3.1** (3.5 [1]). Let  $X_1 \subset R^s$  and  $X_2 \subset R^t$  be definable  $C^r$  manifolds of dimension m and n, respectively. Let  $f: X_1 \to X_2$  be a definable  $C^r$  map. Then the set of critical values of f has dimension less than n.

To prove Theorem 1.2, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $D^k$  be the k-dimensional closed unit disk of  $R^k$  and 0 < a < 1. Then there exists a definable isotopy  $\{h_t\}_{t \in J}$  such that  $h_0 = id$  and  $h_1(0, \ldots, 0, 0) = (0, \ldots, 0, a)$ .

Proof. Take a definable  $C^r$  function  $f:R\to R, f(x)=\left\{\begin{array}{l} 1, |x|<\frac{1}{3}\\ 0, |x|>\frac{1}{2} \end{array}\right.$ 

If  $\epsilon > 0$  is sufficiently small, then  $f_{\epsilon}(x) = \epsilon f(x) + x$  is increasing, f(x) = x if  $|x| > \frac{1}{2}$  and  $f_{\epsilon}(0) = \epsilon$ .

Take a definable  $C^r$  function  $\rho_{\epsilon}: R \to R, \rho(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0, x < \frac{\epsilon}{2} \\ 1, x > \epsilon \end{array} \right.$ 

We define  $g_{\epsilon}: R^k \to R, g_{\epsilon}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = (1 - \rho_{\epsilon}(x_1^2 + \dots x_{k-1}^2)) f_{\epsilon}(x_k) + \rho_{\epsilon}(x_1^2 + \dots x_{k-1}^2) x_k.$ 

Then  $g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_k)=f_{\epsilon}(x_k)$  if  $x_1^2+\cdots+x_{k-1}^2<\frac{\epsilon}{2}$  and  $g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_k)=x_k$  if  $x_1^2+\cdots+x_{k-1}^2>\epsilon$ . Moreover  $g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_k)=x_k$  if  $|x_k|>\frac{1}{2},\ g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_k)$  is increasing with respect to  $x_k$  and  $g_{\epsilon}(0,\ldots,0)=f_{\epsilon}(0)=\epsilon$ . Then the map  $h:D^k\to D^k$  defined by  $h(x_1,\ldots,x_{k-1},x_k)=(x_1,\ldots,x_{k-1},g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_k))$  is the identity on a definable open neighborhood of  $\partial D^k,\ h(0,\ldots,0,0)=(0,\ldots,0,\epsilon)$  and h is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism. We define a definable isotopy  $\{h_t\}$  of  $D^k$  by  $h_t(x_1,\ldots,x_{k-1},x_k)=(x_1,\ldots,x_{k-1},p_{\epsilon}g_{\epsilon}(x_1,\ldots,x_{k-1},x_k)+(1-\rho_{\epsilon}(t)x_k)$ . Then  $h_t=id$  if  $t\leq 0,\ h_t=h$  if  $t\geq \epsilon$  and  $h_1(0,\ldots,0,0)=(0\ldots,0,\epsilon)$ .

Let  $\epsilon < a < 1$ . We now construct a definable isotopy  $\{H_t\}$  of  $D^k$  such that  $H_1(0, \ldots, 0, 0) = (0, \ldots, 0, a)$ . For a sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$ , take a definable  $C^r$  function  $\sigma : R \to R$ ,  $\sigma(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\epsilon}{a}, x < a + \delta \\ 1, x > a + 2\delta \end{cases}$ . Then the map  $H : D^k \to D^k$  defined by

Then the map  $H: D^k \to D^k$  defined by  $H(x_1, \ldots, x_k) = (\sigma(||x||)x_1, \ldots, \sigma(||x||)x_k)$  is a definable  $C^r$  diffeomorphism, where ||x|| denotes the standard norm of  $R^k$ . H is the identity on a definable open neighborhood of  $\partial D^k$  and  $H(0, \ldots, 0, a) = (0, \ldots, 0, \epsilon)$ .

Thus  $\{H^{-1} \circ h_t \circ H\}_{t \in J}$  is a definable isotopy such that the identity if  $t \leq 0$ ,  $H^{-1} \circ h_1 \circ H(0, \ldots, 0, 0) = (0, \ldots, 0, a)$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $D^k$  be the k-dimensional closed unit disk of  $R^k$  and  $p, q \in IntD^k$ . Then there exists a definable isotopy  $\{h_t\}_{t\in J}$  such that  $h_0 = id$ ,  $h_1(p) = q$  and  $h_t$  is identity on a definable open neighborhood of  $\partial D^k$ .

*Proof*. We prove that the theorem the case where p=0 and  $q\neq 0$ . Since  $q\neq 0$ , a=||q|| satisfies 0< a< 1. Let  $(b_1,\ldots,b_k)=\frac{1}{a}(q_1,\ldots,q_k)$ , where  $q=(q_1,\ldots,q_k)$ . Since  $||(b_1,\ldots,b_k)||=1$ , we can take an orthogonal matrix B including  $[b_1,\ldots,b_k]$  as the

$$n$$
-th column. Hence  $\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} = B \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Therefore 
$$\begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ \vdots \\ q_n \end{bmatrix} = B \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ a \end{bmatrix}$$
.

By Lemma 3.2 and composing the matrix operation of B, we have a definable isotopy of  $D^k$  such that  $h_1(0) = q$ .

By the above argument, we have a definable isotopy of  $D^k$  such that  $h_1(p) = 0$ . Composing these two definable isotopies, we have the required definable isotopy.

Remark 3.4. (1) Theorem 3.3 is a definable version of the classical result.

(2) If  $\mathcal{N} = (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, <, exp, ...)$ , then we can take  $r = \infty$ .

Proof of Theorem 1.2. By assumption,  $S_1$  has a definable open neighborhood U which is definably  $C^r$  diffeomorphic to  $S_1 \times int(D^{k-s_1})$ . We identify U with  $S_1 \times int(D^{k-s_1})$ . Let  $\pi: S_1 \times int(D^{k-s_1})$  be the projection onto the second factor. By assumption,  $\dim(S_2 \cap U) = s_2 < k - s_1 = \dim D^{k-s_1}$ . Hence  $\dim \pi(S_2 \cap U) < \dim int(D^{k-s_1})$ . By Theorem 3.1, there exists  $p_0$  near 0 such that  $p_0 \notin \pi(S_2 \cap U)$ . By Lemma 3.2, there exists a definable isotopy  $\{j_t\}_{t \in J}$  of  $int(D^{k-s_1})$  such that

- (1)  $j_0 = id$  and  $j_1(0) = p_0$ .
- (2) For any t,  $j_t$  is the identity outside of  $\frac{1}{2}D^{k-s_1}$ .

The family  $\{H_t\}_{t\in J}$  defined by  $h_t(p,x) = (p,j_t(x)), \forall (p,x) \in S_1 \times int(D^{k-s_1})$  is a definable isotopy of U. Since this is the identity outside of  $S_1 \times \frac{1}{2}D^{k-s_1}$ , we can extend it to a definable isotopy  $\{h_t\}_{t\in J}$  of X. By construction,  $h_1(S_1) = S_1 \times \{p_0\}$  in U. Since the choice of  $p_0$ ,  $(S_1 \times \{p_0\}) \cap (S_2 \cap U) = \emptyset$ . Therefore  $h_1(S_1) \cap S_2 = \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 3.5** (5.8 [1]). Let  $X \subset R^l$  be a definable  $C^r$  manifold. Given two disjoint definable sets  $F_0, F_1 \subset X$  closed in X, there exists a definable  $C^p$  function  $\delta : X \to R$  which is 0 exactly on  $F_0$ , 1 exactly on  $F_2$  and  $0 < \delta < 1$ .

**Lemma 3.6** (6.3.6 [2]). Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a definable set which is the union of definable

open subsets  $U_1, \ldots, U_n$  of A. Then A is the union of definable open subsets  $W_1, \ldots, W_n$  of A with  $cl_A(W_i) \subset U_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ , where  $cl_A(W_i)$  denotes the closure of  $W_i$  in A.

The following is the Morse's lemma in the definable category.

**Lemma 3.7** (A7 [9]). Let  $r \ge 0$ , X a definable  $C^{r+2}$  manifold of dimension n,  $f: X \to R$  a definable  $C^{r+2}$  function and  $p \in X$  a nondegenerate critical point of f. Then there exists a definable  $C^r$  coordinate system  $(U, \phi)_2$  of X at  $p_2$  such that  $f = -y_1^2 - \cdots - y_1^2 + y_{\lambda+1} \cdots + y_n$ .

Proof of Theorem 1.4. By the definition of definable  $C^r$  manifolds, there exists a finite number of definable coordinate system  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of X. By Lemma 3.6 and since X is definably compact, replacing  $\{U_i\}_{i=1}^k$ , if necessary, there exists finite number of definably compact sets  $\{K_i\}_{i=1}^k$  such that  $K_i \subset U_i$  and  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k K_i = X$ . Moreover we may assume that for any critical point  $p_0$ ,  $p_0$  lies in a unique  $U_i$  and  $U_i$  satisfies Lemma 3.7.

For any i, we define the gradient vector field  $X_f$  of f in  $U_i$  by

 $X_f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + \cdots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_m} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m}$ . Then for any non-critical point,  $X_f \cdot f > 0$ . By Theorem 3.5, there exists a definable  $C^r$  function  $h_i : U_i \to R$  such that  $0 \le h \le 1$ ,  $h_i = 1$  on a definable open neighborhood  $V_i$  of  $K_i$  and  $h_i = 0$  outside a definably compact set  $L_i$  containing  $V_i$  with  $L_i \subset U_i$ . Each  $h_i$  is extensible to X defining 0 outside of  $U_i$ . Then we have a definable  $C^{r-1}$  vector field  $\Xi = \sum_{i=1}^k h_i X_i$  of X.

We now prove  $\Xi$  is the required vector field. Let p be a non-critical point. Then  $(X_i \cdot f)(p) > 0$  if  $p \in U_i$  and  $(h_i X_f \cdot f)(p) \ge 0$  otherwise. Since  $X = \bigcup_{i=1}^k K_i$ , there exists a  $K_i$  such that  $p \in K_i$ . Since  $h_i = 1$  on  $K_i$ ,  $(X_f \cdot f)(p) > 0$ . Thus  $X \cdot f > 0$ .

Let p be a critical point. Then there exist a sufficiently small definable open neighborhood V of p contained in a unique  $U_i$ . Since  $h_i = 1$  on V and f is written in the standard form,  $h_i X_i$  is a form in the Definition 1.3 (2). Since any other  $h_i X_i$  is 0 on V, X is a form in the Definition 1.3 (2).  $\Box$ 

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