

## 5. Smooth submanifolds

Def. Let  $N \subseteq M$  be an inclusion s.t.  $N$  and  $M$  are smooth manifolds. Then  $N$  is a smooth submanifold if the inclusion  $i: N \subseteq M$  is a smooth immersion ( $\Rightarrow$  it is also a smooth embedding).

Before discussing submanifolds further, we need to prove a result on smooth embeddings:

LOCAL FLATNESS PROPERTY. Let  $f: N^n \rightarrow M^m$  be a smooth embedding. Then for each  $p \in N$  there are smooth charts  $h_\alpha: W_\alpha \rightarrow U_\alpha$  ( $p \in W_\alpha$ )

$$h_\alpha: \begin{array}{ccc} \underbrace{W_\alpha}_{\text{in } N} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \underbrace{U_\alpha}_{\text{in } \mathbb{R}^n} \\ \underbrace{\mathcal{D}_\alpha}_{\text{in } M} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \underbrace{U_\alpha \times V_\alpha}_{\text{in } \mathbb{R}^m = \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m-n}} \end{array} \quad \text{such that}$$

$$h_\alpha \circ f \circ h_\alpha^{-1}(x) = (x, y_0) \text{ for some fixed } y_0 \in V_\alpha \quad \boxed{\text{AND}}$$

$$f[N] \cap \mathcal{D}_\alpha = h_\alpha^{-1}[U_\alpha \times \{y_0\}].$$

This is stronger than the condition for an immersion. In the latter case, some point

$(x_0, y_0)$  might be a limit point of  
 $k_\alpha^{-1}[f[N] \cap \mathcal{D}_\alpha] = U_\alpha \times V_\alpha - \{y_0\}$ .

Examples 1. The immersion  $S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  whose image is the Figure 8 curve



2. The immersion  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  ( $\mathbb{N} = \text{nonneg. integers}$ )  
 $\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  which sends  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{m\}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{g(m)\}$  where  $g: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  is a 1-1 correspondence.

Proof. Since  $f$  is an immersion, one can find charts so that the first condition holds.

By assumption,  $f k_\alpha^{-1}$  maps  $V_\alpha$  homeomorphically to an open subset of  $f[N] \subseteq M$ .

Therefore there is some open subset  $V^*$  in  $N$  such that  $V^* \cap f[N] = f k_\alpha^{-1}[U_\alpha] = f[W_\alpha]$ .

Let  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha^* = \mathcal{D}_\alpha \cap V^*$ . Then  $f[W_\alpha] = f[N] \cap \mathcal{D}_\alpha^*$ , and the latter is just  $k_\alpha^{-1}[U_\alpha \times \{y_0\}]$ . Let

$(x_0, y_0) = k_\alpha^{-1}(f(p)) \in k_\alpha^{-1}[\mathcal{D}_\alpha^*] \subseteq U_\alpha \times V_\alpha$ , and choose open neighborhoods  $U_\alpha'$  of  $x_0$  and  $V_\alpha'$  of  $y_0$  so

that  $U_\alpha' \times V_\alpha' \subseteq k_\alpha [\mathcal{D}_\alpha^*]$ . Then we have restricted charts  $h_\alpha': \rightarrow U_\alpha'$ ,  $k_\alpha': \rightarrow U_\alpha' \times V_\alpha'$  such that  $p \in h_\alpha'^{-1}[U_\alpha']$ ,  $f$  is given locally by  $u \rightarrow (u, y_0)$  and  $k_\alpha' [f[N] \cap \mathcal{D}_\alpha'] = U_\alpha' \times \{y_0\}$ .  $\blacksquare$

EXAMPLE Topological embeddings of manifolds need not be locally flat. The video [The Alexander sphere...](#) constructs a standard example (also see Hatcher).

COROLLARY. If  $f: M^n \rightarrow N^n$  is a smooth embedding, then  $f[M]$  can be made into a smooth submanifold such that  $f$  maps  $M$  diffeomorphically onto  $f[M]$ .

CORESTRICTION LEMMA. Suppose  $f$  is a smooth embedding and  $g: P \rightarrow M$  is a smooth map such that  $g[P] \subseteq f[N]$ . Then there is a unique smooth map  $g_0: P \rightarrow N$  such that  $g = f \circ g_0$ .

Proof Since  $f$  maps  $N$  homeomorphically onto  $f[N]$ , there is a unique continuous map  $g_0$  such that  $f \circ g_0 = g$ . We need to verify that this mapping is smooth.

Let  $p \in N$  and choose locally flat charts as before:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 N & \xrightarrow{f} & M \\
 \downarrow h_\alpha & & \downarrow k_\alpha \\
 U_\alpha & \dashrightarrow & U_\alpha \times V_\alpha \\
 \cup & & (u, y_0)
 \end{array}$$

and no points off this slice come from  $f[N]$

Suppose now that  $p = g_0(p')$ , and choose a smooth chart  $h_i: P \rightarrow W_\alpha$  at  $p'$  so that

↖ actually defined on an open subset

$g_0$  maps  $h_\alpha^{-1}[W_\alpha]$  into  $h_\alpha^{-1}[U_\alpha]$ .

Then  $g$  maps  $h_\alpha^{-1}[W_\alpha]$  into  $h_\alpha^{-1}[U_\alpha \times V_\alpha]$  by a map which has the local form

$$w \longrightarrow (\gamma(w), y_0).$$

Since  $g$  is smooth, the map  $\gamma$  is also smooth. However, by construction  $\gamma$  is a local representation of  $g_0$ , so  $g_0|_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha^{-1}[W_\alpha]}$  is smooth. We can find an open covering of  $P$  by sets of the form  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha^{-1}[W_\alpha]$ , and therefore it follows that  $g_0$  is smooth.  $\square$

Proof of Corollary. By local flatness we know that  $f[N]$  is contained in a union of smooth coordinate charts for  $M$  of the form  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha: \mathcal{D}_\alpha \rightarrow U_\alpha \times V_\alpha$  such that  $f[N] \cap \mathcal{D}_\alpha$  corresponds to  $U_\alpha \times \{y_0\}$ . Therefore we have an atlas of charts of the form  $[open\ in\ f[N]] \rightarrow U_\alpha$  for  $f[N]$ . By our hypotheses the transition maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U_\alpha \times V_\alpha & & U_\beta \times V_\beta \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{open subset} & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{\beta\alpha}} & \text{open subset} \end{array} \quad \text{are diffeomorphisms}$$

and by construction the slice for  $U_\alpha \times \{y_0\}$  is sent to

the slice for  $U_\beta \times \{y_0\}$ ; more precisely,

(open subset) $_{\beta\alpha} \cap U_\alpha \times \{y_\alpha\}$  is sent to

(open subset) $_{\alpha\beta} \cap U_\beta \times \{y_\beta\}$ . Since  $\gamma_{\beta\alpha}$  is smooth (the charts for  $M$  are smooth), it

follows that the restricted charts are also smooth. (Recall that if  $f: U \times V \rightarrow U' \times V'$

is smooth and sends  $U \times \{y\}$  to  $U' \times \{y'\}$ , then the map  $U \times \{y\} \rightarrow U \times V \rightarrow U' \times V' \rightarrow U' \times \{y'\}$  is also smooth.)

Therefore we have a smooth atlas for  $f[N]$ .

By construction  $f$  induces a homeo  $N \rightarrow f[N]$  and with respect to this atlas the map  $f$  is smooth such that  $T_x(f)$  has max inverse rank for all  $x \in N$ . Therefore  $f$  is a diffeomorphism by a corollary to the Inverse Function Theorem.  $\blacksquare$