

# Controllability on the Group of Diffeomorphisms

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Ph.D thesis

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# References

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# Exponentials

Let  $M$  be a smooth connected manifold. Let  $V, V_t$  be complete.

Autonomous v.f.  $V \in \text{Vec}M$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}(t) &= V(q(t)) \\ q(0) &= q_0. \end{cases}$$

Nonautonomous v.f.  $V_t \in \text{Vec}M$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}(t) &= V_t(q(t)) \\ q(t_0) &= q_0, \end{cases}$$

For every fixed  $t$

$$e^{tV}$$

$$\overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_{t_0}^t V_\tau d\tau$$

is a diffeomorphism of  $M$  which maps any  $q_0 \in M$  to the value of the solution at time  $t$  of the system.

# Our goal

Let  $\mathcal{F} \subset \text{Vec}M$  be a family of vector fields we set

$$\text{Gr}\mathcal{F} = \{e^{t_1 f_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{t_k f_k} : t_i \in \mathbb{R}, f_i \in \mathcal{F}, k \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Our purpose is to study the relation between  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  and  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$ .

Thurston 1971

If  $M$  is compact then the group  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$  is simple.

If  $\mathcal{F} = \text{Vec}M$  then  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  is a *normal* subgroup of  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$ . Therefore

$$\text{Gr}(\text{Vec}M) = \text{Diff}_0(M)$$

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$$\text{Gr}(\text{Vec}M) = \text{Diff}_0(M)$$

# The main result

## Theorem

If  $M$  is compact and  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  acts transitively on  $M$ , then

$$\text{Gr}\{af : a \in C^\infty(M), f \in \mathcal{F}\} = \text{Diff}_0M.$$

## Remark (Lobry)

The set of pairs  $(f_1, f_2)$  such that  $\text{Gr}\{f_1, f_2\}$  acts transitively on  $M$  is dense in  $\text{Vec}M \times \text{Vec}M$ .

# The main result

## Main Theorem

Let  $M$  be a compact connected manifold and  $\mathcal{F} \subset \text{Vec}M$ .

If  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  acts transitively on  $M$ , then there exist

- a neighborhood  $\mathcal{O}$  of the identity in  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$ ;
- a positive integer  $\mu$

such that every  $P \in \mathcal{O}$  can be presented in the form

$$P = e^{a_1 f_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_\mu f_\mu},$$

for some  $f_1, \dots, f_\mu \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_\mu \in C^\infty(M)$ .

## Remark

The number of exponentials  $\mu$  does **not** depend on  $P$ .

## Open Problem

Estimate  $\mu$ .

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# Control Systems

By *Control System* we mean a system of the form:

$$\dot{q} = f_u(q), \quad q \in M, u \in U,$$

where

- $q \in M$  is called *state*;
- $u \in U$  is called *control*;
- $U \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  is called *set of control parameters*.

We represent the control system by a family of vector fields

$$\mathcal{F} = \{f_u : u \in U\} \subset \text{Vec}M.$$

Control systems  $\iff$  Families of vector fields

# Attainable sets

The set of points reachable is called *attainable set*.

## Attainable set

$$\mathcal{A}_q = \{q \circ e^{t_1 f_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{t_k f_k} : t_i \geq 0, f_i \in \mathcal{F}, k \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

We consider a larger set: the *Orbit*

## Orbit

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_q &= \{q \circ e^{t_1 f_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{t_k f_k} : t_i \in \mathbb{R}, f_i \in \mathcal{F}, k \in \mathbb{N}\} \\ &= \{q \circ P : P \in \text{Gr}\mathcal{F}\}. \end{aligned}$$

If a family  $\mathcal{F}$  is symmetric, namely if  $\mathcal{F} = -\mathcal{F}$ , then the attainable sets coincide with the orbits, i.e.  $\mathcal{A}_q = \mathcal{O}_q$ .

# Controllability

## Definition: Controllability

A system  $\mathcal{F}$  is *controllable*  $\iff \mathcal{A}_q = M$ , for every  $q \in M$ .

## Remark

$\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  acts transitively on  $M$   $\iff \mathcal{O}_q = M$ , for every  $q \in M$ .

If  $\mathcal{F}$  is symmetric then

Controllability on  $M$   
 $\Downarrow$   
"Controllability" on  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$

# Bracket Generating families

## Definition

- $\text{Lie}(\mathcal{F}) = \text{span}\{[f_1, [\dots [f_{k-1}, f_k] \dots]] : f_1, \dots, f_k \in \mathcal{F}, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$
- $\text{Lie}_q \mathcal{F} = \{f(q) : f \in \text{Lie}(\mathcal{F})\}$ .

## Definition

We say that the family  $\mathcal{F}$  is *bracket generating* if

$$\text{Lie}_q \mathcal{F} = T_q M \quad \text{for every } q \in M.$$

## Theorem (Chow–Rashevsky)

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a *bracket generating* family of vector fields. Then

$$\mathcal{O}_q = M, \quad \text{for any } q \in M.$$

# Application to control systems

## Corollary

Let  $\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}$  be bracket generating. Consider the system

$$\dot{q} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i, \quad q \in M, \quad (1)$$

with controls that are

- piecewise constant in  $t$ ,
- smooth in  $q$ .

For every  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(M)$  there exist controls  $u_i(t, q)$  such that

$$P = \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt.$$

# Outline of the proof

- Localization of the problem;
- Use the controllability assumption to consider a full-dimensional case;
- Restriction to a 1-dimensional problem with parameters;
- Linearize the diffeomorphism.

# Localization

## Lemma (Palis–Smale)

Let  $\bigcup_j U_j = M$  be an open covering of  $M$  and  $\mathcal{O}$  be a neighborhood of identity in  $\text{Diff}_0 M$ .

Then the group  $\text{Diff}_0 M$  is generated by the subset

$$\{P \in \mathcal{O} : \exists j \text{ such that } \text{supp } P \subset U_j\}.$$

Where  $\text{supp } P = \overline{\{x \in M : P(x) \neq x\}}$ .

# Orbit Theorem

## Theorem (Orbit Theorem of Sussmann)

$\mathcal{O}_q$  is a connected submanifold of  $M$ . Moreover,

$$T_p\mathcal{O}_q = \text{span}\{q \circ \text{Ad } Pf : P \in \text{Gr}\mathcal{F}, f \in \mathcal{F}\}, \quad p \in \mathcal{O}_q.$$

Recall that transitivity of the action of  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  on  $M \implies \mathcal{O}_q = M$ .

If  $X_1(q), \dots, X_n(q)$  form a basis of  $T_qM$  then

$$e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n} \in \text{Gr}\{af : a \in C^\infty(M), f \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

for every  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in C^\infty(M)$ .

Indeed  $X_i = \text{Ad } P_i f_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  with  $P_i \in \text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$ ,  $f_i \in \mathcal{F}$

# The problem reduces to

Given  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  such that

$$\text{span}\{X_1(0), \dots, X_n(0)\} = \mathbb{R}^n.$$

We have to prove that there exist

- an open neighborhood  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- a open subset of  $\mathcal{O} \subset \text{Diff}_0(U)$ ;

such that every  $P \in \mathcal{O}$  can be written as

$$P = e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n}. \quad (2)$$

In the following we study analytical properties of map

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) \mapsto e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n} \Big|_U.$$

# Outline of the proof

- Localization of the problem;
- Use the controllability assumption to consider a full-dimensional case;
- **Restriction to a 1-dimensional problem with parameters;**
- Linearize the diffeomorphism.

# Restriction to a single direction

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \text{Vec}\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\text{span}\{X_1(0), \dots, X_n(0)\} = \mathbb{R}^n.$$

For

- $U$  neighborhood of the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- $\mathcal{U}$  neighborhood of the identity in  $\text{Diff}_0(U)$ ;

*small enough* every  $P \in \mathcal{U}$  splits into the composition

$$P = \varphi_1 \circ \dots \circ \varphi_n|_U,$$

where  $\varphi_i \in \text{Diff}(U)$  and preserves the 1-foliation generated by the trajectories of the equation  $\dot{q} = X_i(q)$ , for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Namely of the form

$$\varphi_i = \overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^1 a(t, \cdot) X_i dt.$$

## Idea

The linear diffeomorphism of  $U \subset \mathbb{R}$ , say

$$x \mapsto \alpha x|_U, \quad \alpha \neq 1, \quad (\alpha > 0),$$

is the exponential of the linear vector field  $\log(\alpha)x \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$

- It is possible to take a nonempty open subset of  $\mathcal{U}$  such that the linearization of every  $\varphi_k$  is not trivial.
- The change of coordinates that linearizes can be recovered from the solution of the PDE:

$$a(t, x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(t, x, y) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x, y) + b(t, x, y)u(t, x, y) = 0, \quad (3)$$

with  $t, x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$



# Improvements

$$\dot{q} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i, \quad q \in M,$$

with  $\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}$  bracket generating .

For every  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(M)$  there exist controls  $u_i(t, q)$  that are

- (i) **piecewise constant** w.r.t.  $t$ ,
- (ii) **smooth** w.r.t.  $q$ .

such that  $P$  is the flow at time 1 of the system.

- Is it possible to assume controls more regular?
- Is it possible to add a drift to the system?

# The Second Result

Let  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m\}$  bracket generating. Consider the system

$$\dot{q} = f_0(q) + \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with controls  $u_i$  such that, for every  $i = 1, \dots, m$ :

- (i)  $u_i$  is **polynomial** with respect to  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- (ii)  $u_i$  is a **trigonometric polynomial** with respect to  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

Let  $k$  be a positive integer and consider

$$J_0^k(P)(z) = P(0) + (DP(0)) \cdot z + \frac{1}{2}(D^2P(0)) \cdot z^{\otimes 2} + \dots + \frac{D^k P(0)}{k!} \cdot z^{\otimes k}.$$

Let  $r$  be a positive integer,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and  $B$  ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , there exist controls  $u_1(t, q), \dots, u_m(t, q)$  such that, if  $\Phi$  is the flow at time 1 of the system then

$$J_0^k(\Phi) = J_0^k(P) \quad \text{and} \quad \|\Phi - P\|_{C^r(B)} < \varepsilon.$$

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# The core of the method

We have to study analytical properties of map

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) \mapsto e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n} \Big|_U. \quad (4)$$

Consider

- the space  $\mathbf{X}$  of polynomials of degree  $\leq k$ , in  $n$  variables;
- the jet-group  $\mathbf{Y} = J_0^k(\text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^n))$ ;

and consider the map:

$$F : \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{X}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \\ (a_1, \dots, a_n) & \longmapsto & J_0^k(e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n}) \end{array}$$

$\dim \mathbf{X} < \infty$  and  $\dim \mathbf{Y} < \infty$

# Implicit Function Theorem applied to $F$

$$F : \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{X}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \\ (a_1, \dots, a_n) & \longmapsto & J_0^k(e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n}) \end{array}$$

- $F(0, \dots, 0) = \text{Id}$ ;
- $T_{\text{Id}}\mathbf{Y} = J_0^k(\text{Vec}(\mathbb{R}^n))$ ;
- $D_0 F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = a_1 J_0^k(X_1) + \dots + a_n J_0^k(X_n)$ .

$D_0 F$  is surjective

Thus  $F$  is locally surjective.

Moreover:

- $F$  is continuous;
- $F$  has a right inverse;
- the right inverse of  $F$  is continuous.

# Relaxation

## Theorem

If  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  acts transitively on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , there exists a sequence

$$\{P_j\}_j \subset \text{Gr}\{af : a \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), f \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

such that

$$P_j \rightarrow P, \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow \infty$$

in the  $C^\infty$ -topology.

## Proposition

If  $V_t = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i(t, \cdot) X_i$ ,  $\Rightarrow \exists Z_t^n$  sequence of **piecewise constant** w.r.t.  $t$  vector fields s.t.  $Z_t^n \in \{aX_i \mid a \in C^\infty, i = 1 \dots, m\}$ ,  $\forall t, n$ , and

$$\overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t Z_\tau^n d\tau \longrightarrow \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t V_\tau d\tau, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

in the  $C^\infty$ -topology and uniformly w.r.t.  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

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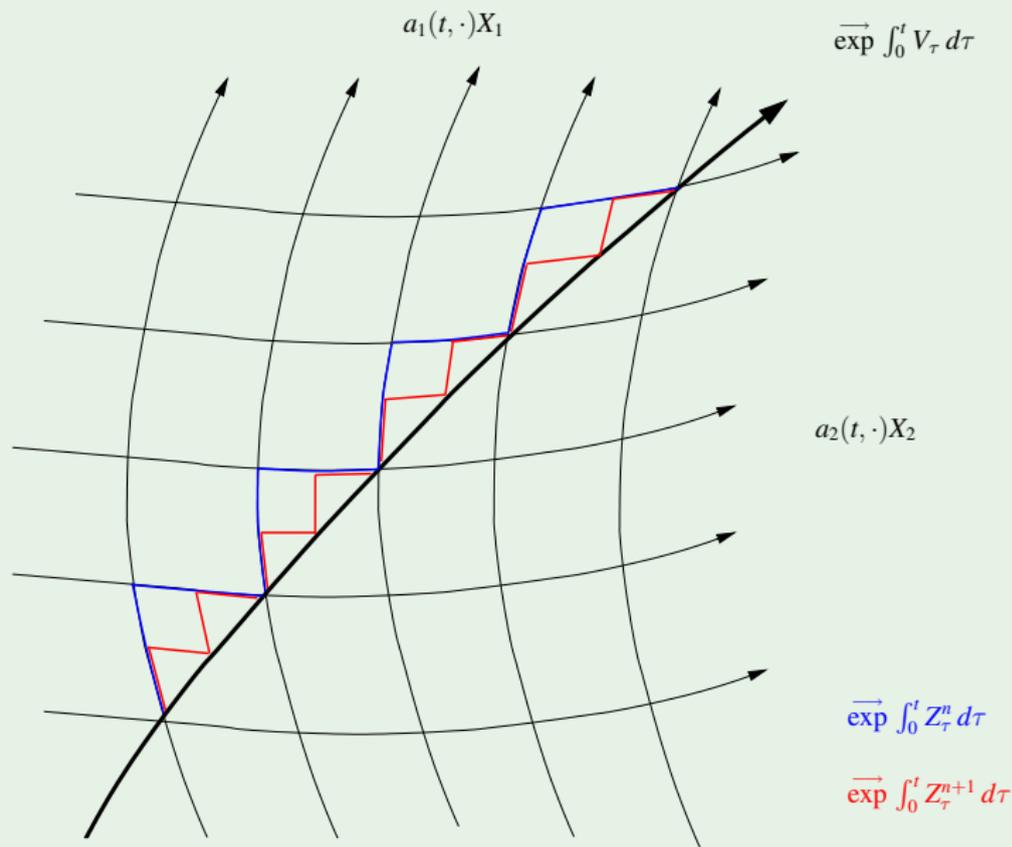
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in the  $C^\infty$ -topology and uniformly w.r.t.  $t \in [0, 1]$ .



# Back to Control Systems

Let  $\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}$  be a bracket-generating family and consider the control-affine system

$$\dot{q} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

for every  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

- there exist  $u_i(t, \cdot)$  piecewise constant in  $t$

such that

$$J_0^k(P) = J_0^k(e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n}) = J_0^k \left( \overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt \right).$$

and

$$\overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt \text{ is arbitrary close to } P.$$

## Lemma

Consider the control system

$$\dot{q} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with

- $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m\}$  bracket generating;
- $u_i$  piecewise constant with respect to  $t \in [0, 1]$ ;
- $u_i$  smooth with respect to  $q$ .

Let  $N$  and  $r$  be positive integers,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and  $B$  ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , there exist controls  $u_1(t, q), \dots, u_m(t, q)$  such that, if

$$\Phi = \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt.$$

then

$$J_0^k(\Phi) = J_0^k(P) \quad \text{and} \quad \|\Phi - P\|_{C^r(B)} < \varepsilon.$$

If  $\mathbf{U}$  is the space of controls  $u(t, q)$ :

- smooth w.r.t.  $q$ ;
- piecewise constant w.r.t.  $t$ .

By Implicit Function Theorem the map:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F} : \quad \mathbf{U}^m &\longrightarrow \mathbf{Y} \\ (u_1, \dots, u_m) &\longmapsto J_0^k(\overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt) \end{aligned}$$

is **continuous**, **surjective** and with **continuous right inverse**.

### Remark

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . If  $G : \mathbf{U}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$  is s.t.  $\sup_{x \in K} |\tilde{F}(x) - G(x)| < \varepsilon$  for any  $K$  compact, then  $G$  is **surjective** too.

Small perturbations of map  $\tilde{F}$  remain surjective.

## Theorem

Let  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m\}$  be a bracket generating family of vector fields on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the control system

$$\dot{q} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with controls  $u_i$  such that, for every  $i = 1, \dots, m$ :

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Let  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m\}$  be a bracket generating family of vector fields on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the control system

$$\dot{q} = f_0(q) + \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, q) f_i(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with controls  $u_i$  such that, for every  $i = 1, \dots, m$ :

- (i)  $u_i$  is polynomial w.r.t.  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- (ii)  $u_i$  is **trigonometric polynomial** w.r.t.  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

Let  $N$  and  $r$  be positive integers,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and  $B$  ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For any  $P \in \text{Diff}_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , there exist controls  $u_1(t, q), \dots, u_m(t, q)$  such that, if

$$\Phi = \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^1 f_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m u_i(t, \cdot) f_i dt.$$

then

$$J_0^k(\Phi) = J_0^k(P) \quad \text{and} \quad \|\Phi - P\|_{C^r(B)} < \varepsilon.$$

# An application of Nash–Moser

$$\begin{aligned} F : \quad C^\infty(M)^n &\longrightarrow \text{Diff}_0(M) \\ (a_1, \dots, a_n) &\longmapsto e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The problem is to prove:

- 1  $F$  is locally onto;
- 2 small perturbations of the map  $F$  are locally surjective too.

## Remark

Recall that point 1 implies the Main Theorem.

# An alternative proof of Main Theorem

## Proposition

Let  $X_i \in \text{Vec}\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , such that

$$\text{span}\{X_1(0), \dots, X_n(0)\} = \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Then, there exist  $\varrho > 0$  and an open subset  $\mathcal{U} \subset C_0^\infty(B_\varrho)^n$ , such that the mapping

$$\begin{aligned} F : \mathcal{U} &\rightarrow \text{Diff}_0(B_\varrho), \\ (a_1, \dots, a_n) &\mapsto (e^{a_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_n X_n})|_{B_\varrho}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

is an **open map** from  $\mathcal{U}$  into  $\text{Diff}_0(B_\varrho)$ , where

$$B_\varrho = \{e^{s_1 X_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{s_n X_n}(0) : |s_i| < \varrho, i = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

# Classical Implicit Function Theorem does not apply

It is possible to prove that

- ①  $F$  maps  $C^k$  functions into  $C^k$  diffeomorphisms;
- ②  $D_{\mathbf{a}}F$  maps  $C^k$  functions into  $C^k$  vector fields;
- ③  $D_{\mathbf{a}}F^{-1}$  maps  $C^k$  vector fields into  $C^{k-1}$  functions.

Therefore

- $D_{\mathbf{a}}F^{-1}$  “loses derivatives”  $\iff$  The inverse of  $D_{\mathbf{a}}F$  is unbounded.
- We have to look to map  $F$  as a map between Fréchet spaces.
- We need to apply the Nash–Moser Implicit Function Theorem.

# Tame Spaces

Stated in terms of **Tame Spaces** and **Tame Maps** (Sergeraert 1970)

## Definition (Graded Fréchet space)

A Fréchet space  $F$  with a family of seminorms  $\{\|\cdot\|_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  s.t.

$$\|f\|_0 \leq \|f\|_1 \leq \|f\|_2 \leq \dots$$

- The space  $C^\infty(B)$  is a graded Fréchet with the family

$$\|f\|_n = \sup_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sup_{x \in B} |f^{(k)}(x)|.$$

Spaces of smooth functions are something more:

- $C^\infty(B)$  and  $\text{Vec}M$  are **Tame Spaces**;
- $\text{Diff}_0(M)$  is a **Tame Manifold**.

Tame space means "scale of Banach spaces".

# Tame Maps

## Definition (Tame Estimates)

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  tame spaces and  $F : U \subset \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$ .  $F$  satisfies **tame estimates** of degree  $r$  and base  $b$  if there exists  $C = C(n)$  such that

$$\|F(a)\|_n \leq C(\|a\|_{n+r} + 1),$$

for every  $n \geq b$ ,  $a \in U$ .

## Definition (Tame Map)

A map  $F : U \subset \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$  is a **smooth tame map** if it is differentiable and together with its differential satisfies tame estimates in a neighborhood of each point.

## Example

The map  $\text{Exp} : \text{Vec}M \rightarrow \text{Diff}(M)$  that sends  $f \mapsto e^f$  is a tame map.

# Hamilton's version of Nash–Moser Theorem

## Theorem (Nash–Moser)

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  be tame spaces and

$$F : U \subset \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}$$

a smooth tame map. If

- $D_a F(\xi) = \eta$  has a solution for every  $a \in U$  and for every  $\eta$ ;
- $DF^{-1} : \mathcal{O} \times \mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}$  is a smooth tame map.

Then  $F$  is locally surjective. Moreover in a neighborhood of any point  $F$  has a smooth tame right inverse.

The method is:

- prove that  $F$  is tame;
- prove that  $D_a F(\xi)$  is tame both in  $a \in \mathcal{O}$  and  $\xi \in \mathbf{X}$ ;
- invert  $DF$  **not only** in one point, but in all the neighborhood  $U$ ;
- prove that  $(D_a F)^{-1}$  is tame;

# Open Problems

We have that for  $u_1(t), \dots, u_\nu(t)$  piecewise constant

$$F(a) = \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} u_i(t) a_i f_{j_i} dt ,$$

is locally surjective. Consider the truncated fourier series of  $u_i(t)$ , say  $u_i^k(t)$ . Is the map

$$F_k(a) = \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} u_i^k(t) a_i f_{j_i} dt ,$$

locally surjective too?

- No fixed point argument applies;
- Nash–Moser method (Newton iteration scheme) is the right tool.

“Of course the problem is hard! But this is SISSA... not a small mediocre university!”

*“Certo che il problema è difficile! Ma questa è la SISSA... mica una piccola università mediocre!”*



## Main Theorem

Let  $M$  be a compact connected manifold and  $\mathcal{F} \subset \text{Vec}M$ .

If  $\text{Gr}\mathcal{F}$  acts transitively on  $M$ , then there exist

- a neighborhood  $\mathcal{O}$  of the identity in  $\text{Diff}_0(M)$ ;
- a positive integer  $\mu$

such that every  $P \in \mathcal{O}$  can be presented in the form

$$P = e^{a_1 f_1} \circ \dots \circ e^{a_\mu f_\mu},$$

for some  $f_1, \dots, f_\mu \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_\mu \in C^\infty(M)$ .