

## Finite determinacy of non-isolated singularities

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**Abstract.** We give, in terms of the Łojasiewicz inequality, a sufficient condition for  $C^k$  mapping germs of non-isolated singularity at zero to be isotopic.

**1. Introduction and results.** Let  $F : (\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  denote a mapping defined in a neighbourhood of  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with values in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . If  $F(a) = b$ , we write  $F : (\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m, b)$ . We denote by  $\nabla f$  the gradient of a  $C^1$ -function  $f : (\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We set  $V(\nabla f) = \{x : \nabla f(x) = 0\}$ . Let  $|\cdot|$  denote a norm in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\text{dist}(x, V)$  the distance of a point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to a set  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  (with  $\text{dist}(x, V) = 1$  if  $V = \emptyset$ ).

By a  $k$ -jet at  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  in the class  $C^l$ , we mean a family of  $C^l$  functions  $(\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , called  $C^l$ -realisations of this jet, possessing the same Taylor polynomial of degree  $k$  at  $a$ . The  $k$ -jet is said to be  $C^r$ -sufficient (respectively  $v$ -sufficient) in the class  $C^l$  if for any two of his  $C^l$ -realisations  $f$  and  $g$  there exists a  $C^r$  diffeomorphism  $\varphi : (\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, a)$  such that  $f \circ \varphi = g$  in a neighbourhood of  $a$  (respectively the germs of  $f^{-1}(0)$  and  $g^{-1}(0)$  at 0 are homeomorphic) (R. Thom [26]).

In the paper we will consider  $k$ -jets in the class  $C^k$ , which we call briefly  $k$ -jets.

A classical result on sufficiency of jets is the following:

**THEOREM 1.1** (Kuiper, Kuo, Bochnak–Łojasiewicz). *Let  $w$  be a  $k$ -jet at  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $f$  be its  $C^k$  realisation. If  $f(0) = 0$  then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $w$  is  $C^0$ -sufficient in the class  $C^k$ ,
- (b)  $w$  is  $v$ -sufficient in the class  $C^k$ ,
- (c)  $|\nabla f(x)| \geq C|x|^{k-1}$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$  for some constant  $C > 0$ .

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The implication (c) $\Rightarrow$ (a) was proved by N. H. Kuiper [10] and T. C. Kuo [11], (b) $\Rightarrow$ (c) by J. Bochnak and S. Łojasiewicz [2], and the implication (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b) is obvious (see also [16], [23]). In the complex case the analogous result was proved by S. H. Chang and Y. C. Lu [4], B. Teissier [25] and J. Bochnak and W. Kucharz [1]. Similar considerations can be carried out for functions in a neighbourhood of infinity (see [3], [22], [19]).

Theorem 1.1 concerns the isolated singularity of  $f$  at 0, i.e. the point 0 is an isolated zero of  $\nabla f$ . The case of non-isolated singularities of real functions was investigated by many authors, for instance by J. Damon and T. Gaffney [5], T. Fukui and E. Yoshinaga [7], V. Grandjean [8], X. Xu [28], and for complex functions, by D. Siersma [20, 21] and R. Pellikaan [17].

The purpose of this article is to generalise the above results to  $C^k$  mappings in a neighbourhood of zero with non-isolated singularity at zero. Recall the definition of a  $k$ - $Z$ -jet in the class of functions with non-isolated singularity at zero (cf. [28]).

We denote by  $\mathcal{C}_a^k(n, m)$  the set of  $C^k$  mappings  $(\mathbb{R}^n, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ . For  $f \in \mathcal{C}_a^k(n, 1)$ , we denote by  $j^k f(a)$  the  $k$ -jet at  $a$  (in the class  $C^k$ ) determined by  $f$ . For  $F = (f_1, \dots, f_m) \in \mathcal{C}_a^k(n, m)$  we set  $j^k F(a) = (j^k f_1(a), \dots, j^k f_m(a))$ .

Let  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a set with  $0 \in Z$  and let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $k > 0$ . By a  $k$ - $Z$ -jet in the class  $\mathcal{C}_0^k(n, m)$ , or briefly just a  $k$ - $Z$ -jet, we mean an equivalence class  $w \subset \mathcal{C}_0^k(n, m)$  of the equivalence relation  $\sim$  defined by  $F \sim G$  iff for some neighbourhood  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  of the origin,  $j^k F(a) = j^k G(a)$  for  $a \in Z \cap U$  (cf. [28]). The mappings  $F \in w$  are called  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisations of the jet  $w$  and we write  $w = j_Z^k F$ . The set of all jets  $j_Z^k F$  is denoted by  $J_Z^k(n, m)$ .

The  $k$ - $Z$ -jet  $w \in J_Z^k(n, m)$  is said to be  $C^r$ - $Z$ -sufficient (resp.  $Z$ -v-sufficient) in the class  $C^k$  if for any two of its  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisations  $f$  and  $g$  there exist neighbourhoods  $U_1, U_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  of 0 and a  $C^r$  diffeomorphism  $\varphi : U_1 \rightarrow U_2$  such that  $f \circ \varphi = g$  in  $U_1$  (resp. a homeomorphism  $\varphi : [f^{-1}(0) \cup Z] \cap U_1 \rightarrow [g^{-1}(0) \cup Z] \cap U_2$ ) with  $\varphi(0) = 0$  and  $\varphi(Z \cap U_1) = Z \cap U_2$ .

The following Kuiper and Kuo criterion (Theorem 1.1, (c) $\Rightarrow$ (a)) for jets with non-isolated singularity was proved by X. Xu [28].

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Let  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a closed set such that  $0 \in Z$ . If  $f \in \mathcal{C}^k(n, 1)$  with  $V(\nabla f) \subset Z$  satisfies the condition*

$$(1) \quad |\nabla f(x)| \geq C \operatorname{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1} \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow 0 \text{ for some constant } C > 0,$$

*then the  $k$ - $Z$ -jet of  $f$  is  $C^0$ - $Z$ -sufficient.*

The main result of this paper is Theorem 1.3 below. It is a generalisation of Theorem 1.2 to the case of mapping jets. Let us start with some definition. Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $L(X, Y)$  denote the Banach space of continuous linear mappings from  $X$  to  $Y$ . For  $A \in L(X, Y)$ ,  $A^*$  stands for the adjoint operator in  $L(Y', X')$ , where  $X'$  is the dual space of  $X$ . For

$A \in L(X, Y)$  we set

$$(2) \quad \nu(A) = \inf\{\|A^*\varphi\| : \varphi \in Y', \|\varphi\| = 1\},$$

where  $\|A\|$  is the norm of the linear mapping  $A$  (see [18]). If  $f \in \mathcal{C}_0^k(n, 1)$  we have  $\nu(df) = |\nabla f|$ , where  $df$  is the differential of  $f$ .

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Let  $f: (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m, 0)$ , where  $m \leq n$ , be a  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisation of a  $k$ - $Z$ -jet  $w \in J_Z^k(n, m)$ , where  $k > 1$ ,  $Z = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \nu(df(x)) = 0\}$  and  $0 \in Z$ . Assume that for a positive constant  $C$ ,*

$$(3) \quad \nu(df(x)) \geq C \operatorname{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1} \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow 0.$$

*Then the jet  $w$  is  $C^0$ - $Z$ -sufficient in the class  $C^k$ . Moreover, for any  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisations  $f_1, f_2$  of  $w$ , the deformation  $f_1 + t(f_2 - f_1)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , is topologically trivial along  $[0, 1]$ . In particular the mappings  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are isotopic at zero.*

For the definition of isotopy and topological triviality see Subsection 2.3. By Lemmas 2.2 and 2.7, Theorem 1.3 is also true for holomorphic mappings. It is not clear to the authors whether the inverse to Theorem 1.3 holds. In the proof of Theorem 1.3, given in Section 2, we use the method of proof of [19, Theorem 1].

When  $Z$  is an algebraic or analytic set, some algebraic conditions for finite determinacy of a smooth function jet were obtained by L. Kushner [13] and L. Kushner and B. Terra Leme [14]. In those two papers, the authors use the idea of J. Mather [15] and J.-C. Tougeron [27]. For non-degenerate analytic functions  $f, g$ , some conditions for topological triviality of the deformation  $f + tg$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]$ , in terms of Newton polyhedra were obtained by J. Damon and T. Gaffney [5], and for blow analytic triviality by T. Fukui and E. Yoshinaga [7] (see also [24], [29]).

From the proof of Theorem 1.3 we obtain a version of the theorem for  $C^1$  functions with locally Lipschitz differentials.

**COROLLARY 1.4.** *Let  $f, f_1: (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m, 0)$  be differentiable mappings with locally Lipschitz differentials  $df, df_1: (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow L(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , let  $Z = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \nu(df(x)) = 0\}$ , and suppose  $0 \in Z$ . If*

$$(4) \quad \nu(df(x)) \geq C \operatorname{dist}(x, Z),$$

$$(5) \quad |f(x) - f_1(x)| \leq C_1 \nu(df(x))^2,$$

$$(6) \quad \|df(x) - df_1(x)\| \leq C_2 \nu(df(x))$$

*as  $x \rightarrow 0$  for some constants  $C, C_1, C_2 > 0$ ,  $C_2 < 1/2$ , then the deformation  $f + t(f_1 - f)$  is topologically trivial along  $[0, 1]$ . In particular  $f$  and  $f_1$  are isotopic at zero.*

The proof of the above corollary is given in Subsection 2.5.

In Section 3 we prove the following theorem of Bochnak–Łojasiewicz type (cf. implication (b) $\Rightarrow$ (c) in Theorem 1.1), that  $Z$ - $\nu$ -sufficiency of jets implies

the Łojasiewicz inequality, provided  $f(0) = 0$  for  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisations  $f$  of the jet:

**THEOREM 1.5.** *Let  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $0 \in Z$ , let  $w$  be a  $k$ - $Z$ -jet,  $k > 1$ , and let  $f$  be its  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisation. If  $w$  is  $Z$ - $v$ -sufficient in the class  $C^k$ ,  $f(0) = 0$  and  $V(\nabla f) \subset Z$ , then*

$$(7) \quad |\nabla f(x)| \geq C \operatorname{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1} \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow 0 \text{ for some constant } C > 0.$$

It is obvious that a  $C^0$ - $Z$ -sufficient jet is also  $Z$ - $v$ -sufficient, so in a sense Theorem 1.5 is inverse to Theorem 1.2.

## 2. Proof of Theorem 1.3

**2.1. Differential equations.** Let us start by recalling the following

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $G \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$  be an open set,  $W : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  a continuous mapping and  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  a closed set. If in  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times V)$  the system*

$$(8) \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = W(t, y)$$

*has global unique solutions and there exists a neighbourhood  $U \subset G$  of the set  $(\mathbb{R} \times V) \cap G$  and a positive constant  $C$  such that*

$$(9) \quad |W(t, x)| \leq C \operatorname{dist}(x, V) \quad \text{for } (t, x) \in U,$$

*then the system (8) in  $G$  has global unique solutions.*

**2.2. The Rabier function.** Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces over  $\mathbb{K}$ , where  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ . We begin by recalling some properties of the Rabier function  $\nu(\cdot)$  (cf. [19]).

**LEMMA 2.2** ([12]). *Let  $\Sigma$  be the set of operators  $A \in L(X, Y)$  such that  $A(X) \subsetneq Y$ . Then*

$$\nu(A) = \operatorname{dist}(A, \Sigma), \quad A \in L(X, Y).$$

**LEMMA 2.3** ([18]). *Let  $A, B \in L(X, Y)$ . Then*

$$|\nu(A) - \nu(B)| \leq \|A - B\|.$$

*In particular  $\nu : L(X, Y) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is Lipschitz.*

From Lemma 2.3 we have

**LEMMA 2.4.** *If  $A, B \in L(X, Y)$  then*

$$\nu(A + B) \geq \nu(A) - \|B\|.$$

**DEFINITION 1** ([9]). Let  $\mathbf{a} = [a_{ij}]$  be the matrix of  $A \in L(\mathbb{K}^n, \mathbb{K}^m)$ ,  $n \geq m$ . For a subsequence  $I = (i_1, \dots, i_m)$  of  $(1, \dots, n)$ , we denote by  $M_I(A)$  the  $m \times m$  minor of  $\mathbf{a}$  given by the columns indexed by  $I$ . Moreover, if  $J = (j_1, \dots, j_{m-1})$  is a subsequence of  $(1, \dots, n)$  and  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , then  $M_J(j)(A)$  denotes the  $(m - 1) \times (m - 1)$  minor of  $\mathbf{a}$  given by the columns

indexed by  $J$  and with the  $j$ th row deleted (if  $m = 1$  we set  $M_J(j)(A) = 1$ ). Let

$$h_I(A) = \max\{|M_J(j)(A)| : J \subset I, j = 1, \dots, m\},$$

$$g'(A) = \max_I \frac{|M_I(A)|}{h_I(A)}.$$

Here we set  $0/0 = 0$ . If  $m = n$ , we set  $h_I = h$ .

LEMMA 2.5 ([9]). *There exist  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  such that for any  $A \in L(\mathbb{K}^n, \mathbb{K}^m)$  we have*

$$C_1 g'(A) \leq \nu(A) \leq C_2 g'(A).$$

COROLLARY 2.6 ([19]). *The function  $g'$  is continuous.*

LEMMA 2.7 ([12]). *Assume that  $X, Y$  are complex Banach spaces. Let  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{C}}$  (resp.  $\Sigma_{\mathbb{R}}$ ) be the set of non-surjective  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear (resp.  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear) continuous maps from  $X$  to  $Y$ . Then for any continuous  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear map  $A: X \rightarrow Y$ ,*

$$\text{dist}(A, \Sigma_{\mathbb{C}}) = \text{dist}(A, \Sigma_{\mathbb{R}}).$$

**2.3. Isotopy and triviality.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a neighbourhood of  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a set such that  $0 \in Z$ .

We will say that a continuous mapping  $H: \Omega \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is an *isotopy near  $Z$  at zero*, or briefly a  $(Z, 0)$ -isotopy, if

- (a)  $H_0(x) = x$  for  $x \in \Omega$  and  $H_t(x) = x$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$  and  $x \in \Omega \cap Z$ ,
- (b) for any  $t$  the mapping  $H_t$  is a homeomorphism onto  $H_t(\Omega)$ ,

where the mapping  $H_t: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined by  $H_t(x) = H(x, t)$  for  $x \in \Omega$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

Let  $f: \Omega_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $g: \Omega_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  where  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  are neighbourhoods of  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $0 \in Z$ . We call  $f$  and  $g$  *isotopic near  $Z$  at zero* if there exists a  $(Z, 0)$ -isotopy  $H: \Omega \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\Omega \subset \Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2$  such that  $f(H_1(x)) = g(x)$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ .

Let  $h: \Omega_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , where  $\Omega_3 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a neighbourhood of  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We say that a deformation  $f + th$  is *topologically trivial near  $Z$  along  $[0, 1]$*  if there exists a  $(Z, 0)$ -isotopy  $H: \Omega \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\Omega \subset \Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2$ , such that  $f(H(t, x)) + th(H(t, x))$  does not depend on  $t$ .

**2.4. Proof of Theorem 1.3.** Let  $dP$  denote the differential of  $P$ , and  $dP(x)$  the differential of  $P$  at the point  $x$ . By  $d_x P$  we denote the differential of  $P$  with respect to the variables  $x$ .

Let  $f, f_1 \in w$  and let  $P = f_1 - f = (P_1, \dots, P_m)$ . Then  $j^k P(a) = 0$  for  $a \in Z \cap U$ , for some neighbourhood  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  of  $0$ . Consequently, decreasing  $U$  if necessary, we may assume that

$$(10) \quad |P(x)| \leq \frac{C}{3} \text{dist}(x, Z)^k \quad \text{and} \quad \|dP(x)\| \leq \frac{C}{3} \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1}$$

for  $x \in U$ .

Consider the mapping  $F: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  defined by

$$F(\xi, x) = f(x) + \xi P(x).$$

Fix  $\xi \in (-2, 2)$ . By (10) and Lemma 2.4 we get

$$\nu(d_x F(\xi, x)) \geq \nu(df(x)) - |\xi| \|dP(x)\| \geq \frac{C}{3} \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1}, \quad x \in U.$$

Thus by Lemma 2.5 there exists  $C' > 0$  such that

$$(11) \quad g'(d_x F(\xi, x)) \geq C' \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1}, \quad \xi \in (-2, 2), x \in U.$$

Set  $G = \{(\xi, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times U : |\xi| < 2\}$ . In the notation of Definition 1 we set

$$A_I = \left\{ (\xi, x) \in G : \frac{|M_I(d_x F(\xi, x))|}{h_I(d_x F(\xi, x))} \leq \frac{C'}{2} \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1} \right\}.$$

By Corollary 2.6 the sets  $A_I$  are closed in  $G$  and  $(\mathbb{R} \times Z) \cap G \subset A_I$ . From (11) we see that  $\{G \setminus A_I\}_I$  is an open covering of  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times Z)$ . Let  $\{\delta_I\}_I$  be a  $C^\infty$  partition of unity associated to this covering.

Consider the system of linear equations

$$(12) \quad (d_x F(\xi, x))W(\xi, x)^T = -P(x)^T$$

with unknowns  $W(\xi, x) = (W_1(\xi, x), \dots, W_n(\xi, x))$  and parameters  $(\xi, x) \in G$ . Take any subsequence  $I = (i_1, \dots, i_m)$  of  $(1, \dots, n)$ . For simplicity of notation we assume that  $I = (1, \dots, m)$ . For all  $(\xi, x) \in G$  such that  $M_I(d_x F(\xi, x)) \neq 0$  we define  $W^I(\xi, x) = (W_1^I(\xi, x), \dots, W_n^I(\xi, x))$  by

$$W_l^I(\xi, x) = \sum_{j=1}^m (-P_j(x))(-1)^{l+j} \frac{M_{I \setminus l}(j)(d_x F(\xi, x))}{M_I(d_x F(\xi, x))}, \quad l = 1, \dots, m,$$

$$W_l^I(\xi, x) = 0, \quad l = m + 1, \dots, n,$$

where  $I \setminus l = (1, \dots, l - 1, l + 1, \dots, m)$  for  $l = 1, \dots, m$ . Cramer's rule implies

$$(d_x F(\xi, x))W^I(\xi, x)^T = -P(x)^T.$$

Since  $k > 1$ ,  $\delta_I W^I$  is a  $C^1$  mapping on  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times Z)$  (after suitable extension). Hence  $W = \sum_I \delta_I W^I$  is also a  $C^1$  mapping on  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times Z)$ . We set  $W(\xi, x) = 0$  for  $(\xi, x) \in (\mathbb{R} \times Z) \cap G$ . It is easy to see that  $W$  satisfies equation (12).

Observe that

$$(13) \quad \|W(\xi, x)\| \leq C'' \text{dist}(x, Z), \quad \xi \in (-2, 2), x \in U,$$

where  $C'' = 2mC\sqrt{n}/(3C')$ . Indeed from (10), the definition of  $A_I$ , the choice

of  $P$  and the above construction we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|W(\xi, x)\| &\leq \sum_{\{I: \delta_I(\xi, x) \neq 0\}} \delta_I(\xi, x) \|W^I(\xi, x)\| \\ &\leq \sum_{\{I: \delta_I(\xi, x) \neq 0\}} \delta_I(\xi, x) \sqrt{n} \max_{l=1}^m |W_l^I(\xi, x)| \\ &\leq \sum_{\{I: \delta_I(\xi, x) \neq 0\}} \delta_I(\xi, x) \sqrt{n} \sum_{j \in I} |P_j(x)| \frac{h_I(d_x F(\xi, x))}{|M_I(d_x F(\xi, x))|} \\ &\leq \sum_{\{I: \delta_I(\xi, x) \neq 0\}} \delta_I(\xi, x) \sqrt{n} \sum_{j \in I} \frac{C}{3} \text{dist}(x, Z)^k \frac{2}{C'} \frac{1}{\text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1}} \\ &= m\sqrt{n} \frac{C}{3} \frac{2}{C'} \text{dist}(x, Z). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the system of differential equations

$$(14) \quad y' = W(t, y).$$

Since  $W$  is at least of class  $C^1$  on  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times Z)$ , it is a locally lipschitzian vector field. As a consequence, the above system has uniqueness of solutions in  $G \setminus (\mathbb{R} \times Z)$ . Hence, inequality (13) and Lemma 2.1 imply the global uniqueness of solutions of (14) in  $G$ .

Choose  $(\xi, x) \in G$  and define  $\varphi_{(\xi, x)}$  to be the maximal solution of (14) such that  $\varphi_{(\xi, x)}(\xi) = x$ . Set  $\Omega_0 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| < r_0\}$  and  $\Omega_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| < r_1\}$ , where  $r_0, r_1 > 0$ . Since  $0 \in Z$ , the mapping  $\varphi(\xi) = 0, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$ , is a solution of (14). Hence for sufficiently small  $r_0, r_1$ , for any  $x \in \Omega_0$ , the solution  $\varphi_{(0, x)}$  is defined on  $[0, 1]$  and  $\varphi_{(0, x)}(t) \in \Omega_1$ , for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ ; moreover, for any  $x \in \Omega_1$ , the solution  $\varphi_{(1, x)}$  is also defined on  $[0, 1]$ . Let  $H, \tilde{H}: \Omega_0 \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \Omega_1$  be given by

$$H(x, t) = \varphi_{(0, x)}(t), \quad \tilde{H}(y, t) = \varphi_{(t, y)}(0).$$

The mappings  $H, \tilde{H}$  are well defined. Moreover, one can extend them to continuous mappings on some open neighbourhood of  $\Omega_0 \times [0, 1]$ . Set  $\Omega = \Omega_1$  and  $\Omega^t = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : \tilde{H}(y, t) \in \Omega\}, t \in [0, 1]$ . By uniqueness of solutions of (14), for any  $t$  we have  $\tilde{H}(H(x, t), t) = x, H(x, 0) = x, x \in \Omega$ , and  $H(\tilde{H}(y, t)) = y, y \in \Omega^t$ . Moreover there exists a neighbourhood  $\Omega' \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  of 0 such that  $\Omega' \subset \Omega^t$  for any  $t$ .

Finally, by (12) we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} F(t, \varphi_{(\xi, x)}(t))^T = P(x)^T + (d_x F)(t, \varphi_{(\xi, x)}(t))W(t, \varphi_{(\xi, x)}(t))^T = 0,$$

so  $F(t, \varphi_{(0, x)}(t)) = f(x)$ , and consequently  $f(H(x, 1)) + tP(H(x, 1)) = f(x)$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$  and  $x \in \Omega'$ . This ends the proof. ■

**2.5. Proof of Corollary 1.4.** Under the notation of the proof of Theorem 1.3, by (4), (6) and Lemma 2.3 we obtain  $\nu(d_x F(\xi, x)) = \nu(df(x) + \xi dP(x)) \geq \nu(df(x)) - |\xi| \|dP(x)\| \geq C(1 - 2C_2) \text{dist}(x, Z)$ ,  $x \in U$ . Obviously  $C(1 - 2C_2) > 0$ . Then there exists  $C' > 0$  such that

$$(15) \quad g'(d_x F(\xi, x)) \geq C' \text{dist}(x, Z), \quad \xi \in (-2, 2), x \in U.$$

So, we will use (15) instead of (11). By (5) we obtain (13). Moreover, the assumption that  $df$  and  $df_1$  are locally Lipschitz mappings implies that the mapping  $W$  is locally Lipschitz outside  $(-2, 2) \times Z$ . Then, by the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 1.3, we deduce the assertion. ■

**3. Proof of Theorem 1.5.** We will use the idea from [2]. It suffices to prove the theorem for  $Z = V(\nabla f)$ . Suppose to the contrary that for any neighbourhood  $U$  of 0 and for any constant  $C > 0$  there exists  $x \in U$  such that

$$|\nabla f(x)| < C \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1}.$$

Then for some sequence  $(a_v) \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus Z$  such that  $a_v \rightarrow 0$  when  $v \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$(16) \quad |\nabla f(a_v)| \leq \frac{1}{v} \text{dist}(a_v, Z)^{k-1} \quad \text{for } v \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Choosing a subsequence of  $(a_v)$  if necessary, we can assume that

$$\text{dist}(a_{v+1}, Z) < \frac{1}{2} \text{dist}(a_v, Z) \quad \text{for } v \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Choose  $0 < r_v \leq \text{dist}(a_v, Z)/4$  and set

$$B_v = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - a_v| \leq r_v\}, \quad v \in \mathbb{N},$$

Then  $\{B_v\}$  is a family of pairwise disjoint balls. Shrinking  $r_v$  if necessary, we may assume that

$$(17) \quad |\nabla f(x)| \leq \frac{2}{v} \text{dist}(x, Z)^{k-1} \quad \text{for } x \in B_v.$$

Let  $\alpha : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $C^\infty$  function such that  $\alpha(x) = 0$  for  $|x| \geq 1/4$  and  $\alpha(x) = 1$  in some neighbourhood of 0. We are going to prove that  $f - F$ , where

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha\left(\frac{x - a_v}{r_v}\right) f(x), & x \in D_v, v \in \mathbb{N}, \\ 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \bigcup_{v=1}^\infty D_v, \end{cases}$$

is a  $C^k$ - $Z$ -realisation of  $w$ .

By the above construction of  $F$  it is enough to check that

$$(18) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x)}{|x|^k} = 0.$$

To this end write  $f$  in the form  $f = T + R$  where  $T$  is the Taylor polynomial of degree  $k$  of  $f$  at 0 and  $R$  is the remainder. Observe that

$$(19) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{R(x)}{|x|^k} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\nabla R(x)|}{|x|^{k-1}} = 0.$$

On the other hand, since  $T(0) = f(0) = 0$ , by the Bochnak–Łojasiewicz inequality [2] there exists  $C_1 > 0$  such that locally we have  $|T(x)| \leq C_1|x|$   $|\nabla T(x)|$ . Hence

$$|f(x)| \leq C_1|x| |\nabla T(x)| + |R(x)| \leq C_1|x| |\nabla f(x)| + C_1|x| |\nabla R(x)| + |R(x)|$$

in a neighbourhood of the origin. Using this, (17), (19) and the fact that  $\alpha$  is bounded we get (18).

Now, for any sufficiently small neighbourhood  $U$  of  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the set  $f|_U^{-1}(0) \setminus Z$  is a smooth manifold of codimension 1 and  $(f - F)|_U^{-1}(0) \setminus Z$  has non-empty interior. This contradicts the fact that the jet  $w$  is  $Z$ - $v$ -sufficient.

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