
**EXTENDING DIFFEOMORPHISMS**

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In [1, Theorem 5.5], the author proved the following fact. Let $M$ be a differentiable manifold, $p \in M$, and $f$ a diffeomorphism of a neighborhood of $p$ into $M$. If $M$ is orientable assume in addition that $f$ is orientation preserving. Then there exists a diffeomorphism of $M$ onto itself which agrees with $f$ in a neighborhood of $p$. In this paper we shall answer affirmatively a question raised by A. M. Gleason; namely whether the 0-cell $p$ can be replaced by a differentiable $k$-cell. It turns out that this extension follows rather easily from the special case. The author understands that the theorem has been proved independently by J. Cerf in his thesis (not yet published). The author would like to thank Dr. S. Smale for several suggestions utilized in this paper.

1. **Notation.** $M$ will denote an $n$-dimensional differentiable ($= C^\infty$) manifold. For $t = (t_1, \cdots, t_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$ we write $\|t\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k t_i^2$. We put $B^k_r = \{t \in \mathbb{R}^k | \|t\| \leq r\}$ and $\mathring{B}^k_r$ for the interior of $B^k_r$ in $\mathbb{R}^k$. We regard $B^k_r$ as a subset of $B^{k+1}_r$ by $(t_1, \cdots, t_k) \mapsto (t_1, \cdots, t_k, 0 \cdots 0)$. By a *differentiable $k$-cell* in $M$ we mean a one-to-one map $\phi: B^k_r \to M$ such that for each $t \in B^k_r$ there is a neighborhood $U$ of $t$ in $\mathbb{R}^k$ and a non-singular differentiable map $f: U \to M$ such that $f$ and $\phi$ agree on $U \cap \mathring{B}^k_r$. It follows from well-known extension theorems that if $\epsilon > 0$ is sufficiently small then $\phi$ can be extended to a one-to-one non-singular differentiable map of $\mathring{B}^{k+\epsilon}_r$ into $M$. We will write $|\phi|$ for the image of $\phi$. We note that a differentiable $n$-cell $\phi$ in $M$ determines a coordinate system in $|\phi|$, and hence an orientation of $M$ if $M$ is orientable.

2. **Extending a $k$-cell to an $n$-cell.** The theorem of this section ex-
presses what is probably a quite well-known fact. However the author
knows of no reference. The idea of the present proof was suggested by
S. Smale.

**Theorem A.** If \( \phi \) is a differentiable \( k \)-cell in \( M \) and \( U \) is a neighbor-
hood of \( |\phi| \) then there exists a differentiable \( n \)-cell \( \psi \) in \( M \) with \( |\psi| \subseteq U \)
and \( \phi = \psi | B^k_\varepsilon \). If \( k < n \) and \( M \) is orientable we can assume that \( \psi \) defines
either orientation of \( M \).

**Proof.** Without loss of generality we can assume that \( U = M \) and
that \( M \) is paracompact and hence admits a Riemannian metric which
we now fix. Let \( \phi' : \tilde{B}_{1+\varepsilon}^k \to M \) be a one-to-one, nonsingular differ-
tiable extension of \( \phi \) and let \( \Sigma \) be the image of \( \phi' \), a \( k \)-dimensional
submanifold of \( M \). Let \( \Sigma' = \phi'(\tilde{B}_{1+\varepsilon/2}^k) \) and let \( N(\delta) \) be the part of
the normal bundle to \( \Sigma \) lying over \( \Sigma' \) and consisting of vectors of norm
\( \leq \delta \). Since \( \Sigma' \) is relatively compact in \( \Sigma \) it follows that \( E \), the restriction
of the exponential map of \( M \) to \( N(\delta) \), is a diffeomorphism of
\( N(\delta) \) onto a neighborhood of \( |\phi| \) in \( M \) if \( \delta \) is sufficiently small. By
a change of scale in the metric we can suppose this is so for \( \delta = 2 \).
Since \( \Sigma' \) is contractible \( N(2) \) is equivalent to the product bundle, i.e.
we can find a diffeomorphism \( T \) of \( \Sigma' \times B_2^{n-k} \) onto \( N(2) \) which maps
\( x \times B_2^{n-k} \) linearly and orthogonally onto the set of vectors of norm
less than or equal to two which are orthogonal to \( \Sigma' \) at \( x \). We now define
\( \psi : B_{1+\varepsilon}^n \to M \) by

\[
\psi(t_1, \ldots, t_n) = E(T(\phi(t_1, \ldots, t_k), t_{k+1}, \ldots t_n)).
\]

It is clear that \( \psi \) can be extended to a diffeomorphism of \( B_{1+\varepsilon/2}^n \to M \).
If \( t_{k+1} = \cdots = t_n = 0 \) then \( T(\phi(t_1, \ldots, t_k), t_{k+1}, \ldots, t_n) = \) zero vec-
tor at \( \phi(t_1, \ldots, t_k) \) so \( \psi(t_1, \ldots, t_n) = \phi(t_1, \ldots, t_k) \), i.e. \( \psi | B^k_\varepsilon = \phi \).
The final statement of the theorem is clear, for if \( \psi \) defines one
orientation of \( M \) then \( (t_1, \cdots, t_n) \mapsto \psi(t_1, \cdots, t_{n-1}, -t_n) \) defines the
other, and has all the other required properties. q.e.d.

3. Transitivity of diffeomorphisms on \( k \)-cells.

**Theorem B.** Let \( \phi \) and \( \psi \) be two differentiable \( k \)-cells in \( M \). If \( k = n \)
and \( M \) is orientable assume in addition that \( \phi \) and \( \psi \) define the same
orientation of \( M \). Then there exists a diffeomorphism \( F \) of \( M \) onto itself
such that \( \psi = F \circ \phi \).

1 Recall that the sum of two \( n \)-manifolds \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) is defined by taking differ-
tientable \( n \)-cells \( \psi_1 \) and \( \psi_2 \) in \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) respectively and identifying \( M_1 - \psi_1(B_1) \) and
\( M_2 - \psi_2(B_2) \) along the boundaries of \( |\psi_1| \) and \( |\psi_2| \) in the obvious way. As B. Mazur
has pointed out to us, it is precisely Theorem B which is needed to show that the sum
(to within diffeomorphism) is independent of the choice of \( \psi_1 \) and \( \psi_2 \). Because of
Corollary 1 this extends to the sum of manifolds with boundary.
Proof. By Theorem A we can assume that $k = n$. The map $\phi(t) \rightarrow \psi(t)$ defines a diffeomorphism of $\phi(\bar{B}^n)$ onto $\psi(\bar{B}^n)$ which is orientation preserving if $M$ is orientable. By Theorem 5.5 of [1] if $\epsilon$ is sufficiently small and positive we can find a diffeomorphism $H$ of $M$ onto itself such that $\psi(\epsilon) = H(\phi(t))$ if $t \in B^n_\epsilon$. Let $\lambda$ be a monotone nonincreasing differentiable real valued function of one real variable such that $\lambda(t) = 0$ if $t \leq 1$ and $\lambda(t) = 1$ if $t \geq 1 + \delta$, where $\delta > 0$ is chosen so small that $\phi$ and $\psi$ extend to diffeomorphisms of $\bar{B}^n_{1+\delta}$ into $M$. For $0 \leq s \leq 1$ define $F^1_s$ and $F^2_s$, maps of $M \rightarrow M$ by

$$
F^1_s(\phi(t)) = \phi((1 - s\lambda(||t||))t), \quad ||t|| < 1 + \delta,
$$
$$
F^1_s(x) = x, \quad x \in \phi(\bar{B}^n_{1+\delta}),
$$
$$
F^2_s(\psi(t)) = \psi((1 - s\lambda(||t||))^{-1}t), \quad ||t|| < 1 + \delta,
$$
$$
F^2_s(x) = x, \quad x \in \psi(\bar{B}^n_{1+\delta}).
$$

It is clear that $F^1_s$ and $F^2_s$ are diffeomorphisms of $M$ onto itself and that $F^2_{1-s} \circ H \circ F^1_{1-s} = F$ is a diffeomorphism of $M$ onto itself satisfying $\psi = F \circ \phi$. q.e.d.

In [1] we defined the subgroup $G_0$ of the group of all diffeomorphisms of $M$ as (roughly) the diffeomorphisms of $M$ which are isotopic to the identity through diffeomorphisms each of which leaves the complement of some compact set fixed. Theorem 5.5 of [1] states that the diffeomorphism $H$ occurring in the proof of Theorem A can be taken in $G_0$. Moreover $F^1_{1-s}$ and $F^2_{1-s}$ are also clearly in $G_0$ ($s \rightarrow F^1_s$ and $s \rightarrow F^2_s$ give the desired isotopies) hence

**Corollary 1.** The $F$ of the above theorem can be taken in $G_0$.

**Corollary 2.** Assume that $M$ is orientable and admits an orientation reversing diffeomorphism onto itself. Then if $\phi$ and $\psi$ are two differentiable $n$-cells in $M$ there exists a diffeomorphism $F$ of $M$ onto itself such that $\psi = F \circ \phi$.

Proof. By Theorem B we need only consider the case where $\phi$ and $\psi$ define opposite orientations. Let $K$ be an orientation reversing diffeomorphism of $M$ onto itself. Then $K \circ \phi$ is a differentiable $n$-cell in $M$ defining the same orientation as $\psi$, so by Theorem B

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2 This is a nontrivial restriction. If a manifold $M$ has dimension $2k$, $\dim H^k(M, \mathbb{R}) = 1$, and $\omega \wedge \omega \neq 0$ for a nonzero element of $H^k(M, \mathbb{R})$ then for any homeomorphism $h$ of $M$ onto itself it is clear that $h^*(\omega \wedge \omega) = \omega \wedge \omega$ so $h$ is orientation preserving. In particular the complex projective plane is "canonically oriented" in this sense.
\[ \psi = H \circ (K \circ \phi) \] for some diffeomorphism \( H \) of \( M \) onto itself and we put \( F = H \circ K \). q.e.d.

4. Extending diffeomorphisms.

**Theorem C.** Let \( \phi \) be a differentiable \( k \)-cell in \( M \) and let \( f \) be a diffeomorphism of a neighborhood of \( |\phi| \) into \( M \) which is assumed to be orientation preserving if \( M \) is orientable. Then there exists a diffeomorphism \( F \) of \( M \) onto itself which agrees with \( f \) in a neighborhood of \( |\phi| \), and \( F \) can even be chosen in \( G_0 \). If \( f \) is not orientation preserving then the same conclusion holds (except for \( F \in G_0 \)) provided \( M \) admits at least one orientation reversing diffeomorphism onto itself.

**Proof.** By Theorem A we can assume \( k = n \) and we can also assume that for some \( \epsilon > 0 \), \( \phi \) has been extended to a diffeomorphism of \( B^n_{1+2\epsilon} \) into the domain of \( f \). Let \( \phi': B^n_{1} \to M \) be defined by \( \phi'(t) = \phi((1+\epsilon)t) \). Applying the theorem and corollaries of the preceding section we see that we can find a diffeomorphism \( F \) of \( M \) onto itself such that \( F \circ \phi' = f \circ \phi' \). Since \( |\phi'| \) is a neighborhood of \( |\phi| \) this completes the proof.

**Bibliography**


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