

Classical field theory in smooth sets

based on

"Field Theory via Higher geometry I:
Smooth sets of fields"

- joint work w/ Hisham Sati, Urs Schreiber

Plan of the talk

- i) Recall standard description of classical field theory.
- ii) Collect desired properties of ambient category.
- iii) Describe "generalized smooth spaces" as those which
'can be smoothly probed by f.d. manifolds'.
 \rightsquigarrow Def. of smooth sets.
- iv) Indicate how this sheaf topos of smooth sets satisfies (ii) and naturally hosts many more field theoretic notions.

Critical locus in finite dimensions

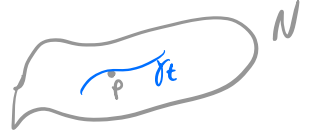
- let $N \subseteq \text{Man}^{\text{fd}}$, and $f: N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Then $p \in N$ is **crit. pt.** for f if

$$\frac{\partial f(x_t)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=0} = 0 \quad \forall \gamma_t: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow N$$

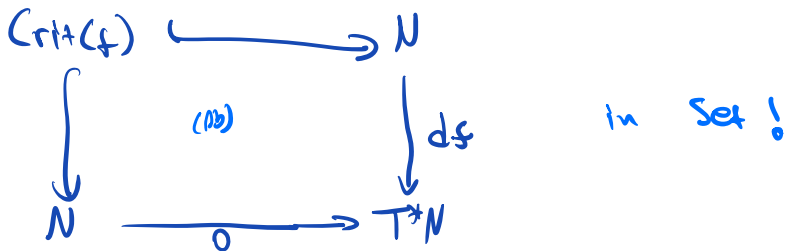
$$\Leftrightarrow ds|_p = 0$$

$$\text{"} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i = 0 \text{"}$$



- $\text{Crit}(f) = \left\{ p \in N \mid \frac{\partial f(x_t)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=0} = 0 \right\}$
 $\forall \gamma_t: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow N \dots$

- Alternatively,



- **Note**: $\text{Crit}(f)$ might not have a f.d. Man str.

Classical field theory and onshell fields

Kine matics

- Let "spacetime" be $M \in \text{Man}^{\text{f.d.}}$ and "field bundle" be a f.d. fiber bundle $F \rightarrow M$.

- The (offshell) ^(set) space of fields is given

by
$$\mathcal{F} := \Gamma_M(F) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\Phi} F \\ \xrightarrow{\cong} M \end{array} \right\}$$

e.g. $F = M \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$
 $\Gamma_M(F) \cong C^\infty(M, \mathbb{R})$

Dynamics

- A Lagrangian density is a 'smooth'

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{w} & \Omega^d(M) \\ \Phi \downarrow & \longrightarrow & w(\Phi) = " \bar{w}(\Phi) \cdot dx^1 \dots dx^d " \end{array}$$

- The action functional is the 'smooth'

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} S: \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{w} & \Omega^d(M) & \xrightarrow{S_M} & \mathbb{R} \\ \Phi \downarrow & \longrightarrow & & \longrightarrow & S_M(w(\Phi)) \end{array}$$

- A Lagrangian is local if it 'smoothly' factors

as
$$\mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{j^\infty} \Gamma_M(J_M^\infty F) \xrightarrow{L} \Omega^d(M)$$

\downarrow jet prolongation
 \searrow infinite jet bundle
 $\xrightarrow{\text{Bundle map}} \begin{array}{c} \Gamma_M F \rightarrow \Gamma_M \mathbb{R} \\ \downarrow \cong \\ \mathbb{R} \end{array}$

• A field $\phi \in F$ is "on-shell" if

it is a critical point of $S := \int_M \omega$,

$$\delta S = \frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi} \delta \phi$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} S(\phi_t) \right|_{t=0} = 0$$

vanishes \forall "smooth" $\phi_t: \mathbb{R}^1 \rightarrow F$.

For local ω

• Since $\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} S(\phi_t) \right|_{t=0} \stackrel{\text{int. by parts}}{=} \dots = \int_M \langle \varepsilon \omega(\phi), \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right|_{t=0} \rangle$, $\in \Gamma_M(VF)$

equivalently $\varepsilon \omega_\alpha(\phi) = \sum (-1)^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left(\frac{\partial L(\phi) \partial \phi}{\partial (\partial x^i \phi)} \right)$

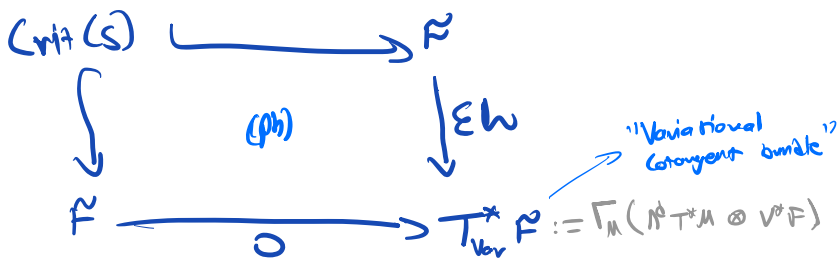
$$\varepsilon \omega(\phi) = 0$$

where $\varepsilon \omega: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \Gamma_M(N^* T^* M \otimes V^* F)$

$\phi \longmapsto \varepsilon \omega(\phi)$

is the Euler-Lagrange diff. op.

• i.e. $\text{Crit}(S) \stackrel{\text{a set}}{\cong} \mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon \omega=0} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}$



Desiderata of "generalized smooth spaces"

- Mapping spaces between f.d. mds should naturally be smooth spaces.

- ' $J^{\infty}F = \lim T^k F$ ' should exist as such.

- $\Gamma_M(J^{\infty}F) = \left\{ M \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{J^{\infty}F} \\ \xrightarrow{=} \\ \xrightarrow{=} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow$

- $j^{\infty}: \Gamma_M(F) \rightarrow \Gamma_M(J^{\infty}F) \rightarrow$
 $\phi \mapsto j^{\infty}\phi$

- Smooth bundle maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 J^{\infty}F & \xrightarrow{L} & T^*M \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 & & M
 \end{array}$$

should give smooth hamiltonian doublets/actors.

$$w(\phi) = L \circ T^* \phi, \quad S = \int_M \circ w$$

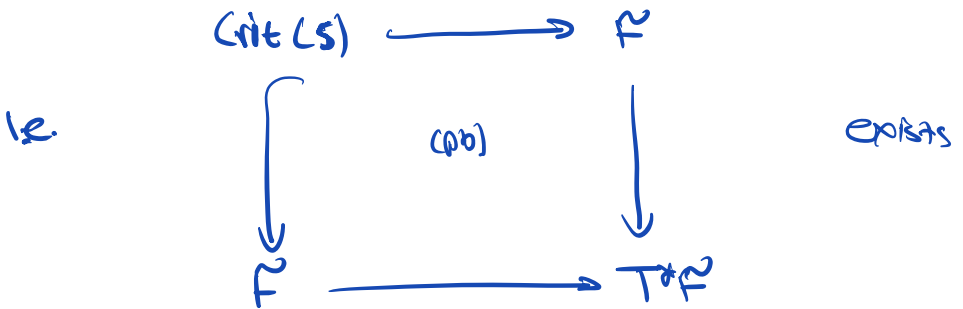
- Smooth $\phi_t: \mathbb{R}^1 \rightarrow F$ well def. such that

$$S(\phi_t): \mathbb{R}^1 \rightarrow F \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is smooth.}$$

$$\mathbb{R}^1 \xrightarrow{\Phi_t} \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{S} \mathbb{R}$$

- $\frac{d}{dt} S(\Phi_t) \Big|_{t=0} = 0 \iff \mathcal{E}W(\Phi) = 0$

- The on-shell space of fields has a smooth subspace structure.



In generalized smooth spaces

- F.d. manifolds should be faithfully viewed as smooth spaces.

Since if $M = *$, then bundle is $N \rightarrow *$

and $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N} \in \text{Man}^{\text{f.d.}} \dots \dots \dashv$

Defining smooth sets

- Basic idea:

✗ Not set of points + structure

✓ But purely operationally, by giving meaning to
'smoothly probe the would-be space.'

In particular what are smooth paths in field space?

- let $\Sigma \in \text{Man}^{\text{fd.}}$ and \mathcal{X} the would be space
to be smoothly probed.

One thinks of a 'smooth map' → Not yet defined.

$$\Sigma \xrightarrow{\text{\(\epsilon\)-plot}} \mathcal{X}$$

as a smooth Σ -shaped plot in \mathcal{X} .

Intuitive consistency \Rightarrow definition

• Minimum consistency requirements:

(i) For each probe $\Sigma \in \text{Man}^{\text{fd}}$, \exists set of smooth Σ -plots of \mathcal{X}

$$\text{Plots}(\Sigma, \mathcal{X}) \equiv \mathcal{X}(\Sigma) \in \text{Set}.$$

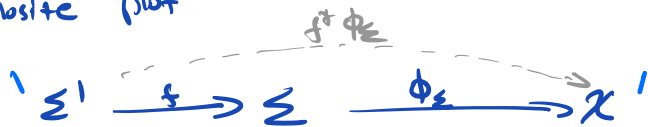
e.g. $-\Sigma = \{*\} \rightsquigarrow \text{Plots}(\{*\}, \mathcal{X}) \equiv \mathcal{X}(\{*\})$
the "points of \mathcal{X} "

$-\Sigma = \mathbb{R}^1 \rightsquigarrow \text{Plots}(\mathbb{R}^1, \mathcal{X}) \equiv \mathcal{X}(\mathbb{R}^1)$
the "smooth lines in \mathcal{X} "



(ii) For any $f: \Sigma' \rightarrow \Sigma$ smooth map of mfd's, there should exist a

'composite plot'



for any Σ -plot $\phi_\Sigma \in \text{Plots}(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$.

i.e., a 'pullback' map

$$f^*: \mathcal{X}(\Sigma) = \text{Plots}(\Sigma, \mathcal{X}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}(\Sigma') = \text{Plots}(\Sigma', \mathcal{X})$$

such that

a) $(\text{id}_\Sigma)^* = \text{id}_{\mathcal{X}(\Sigma)}$

b) $(f \circ g)^* = g^* \circ f^*$



• Conditions (i) and (ii) say that the consistent assignment

of plots for \mathcal{X} forms a functor

$$\mathcal{X}: \text{Man}_{f.d.}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Set.}$$

i.e. $\mathcal{X} \in \text{Psh}(\text{Man})$

Glueing plots

Condition (ii): For $j: \bigsqcup_{i \in I} \mathcal{E}_i \longrightarrow \Sigma$ an open cover
the pull back

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Plots}(\Sigma, X) & \xrightarrow{j^*} & \left\{ (\phi_{\mathcal{E}_i} \in \text{Plots}(\mathcal{E}_i, X))_{i \in I} \mid \begin{array}{l} \phi_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \phi_{\mathcal{E}_j} \\ \text{on } \mathcal{E}_i \cap \mathcal{E}_j \end{array} \right\} \\ (\Sigma \xrightarrow{\phi} X) & \longmapsto & (\mathcal{E}_i \xrightarrow{\psi_i} \Sigma \xrightarrow{\phi} X)_{i \in I} \end{array}$$

is bijective.

The "sheaf condition wrt. open covers".

- Conditions (i) and (ii) give

$$\mathcal{X} \in \text{Sh}(\text{Man}) \longmapsto \text{PSh}(\text{Man})$$

Def.

A smooth set \mathcal{X} is a sheaf on $\text{Man}_{\text{f.d.}}$

$$\mathcal{X}: \text{Man}_{\text{f.d.}}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Set}$$

wrt open coverage.

Smooth maps between gen. sm. spaces

- A 'smooth' map $P: X \rightarrow Y$ should map smooth plots to smooth plots, so a function

$$P_{\varepsilon}: \underbrace{X(\varepsilon)}_{\text{set}} \longrightarrow \underbrace{Y(\varepsilon)}_{\text{set}}$$

for each $\varepsilon \in \text{Man}$.

- It should do so consistently w/ pullback of plots:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(\varepsilon) & \xrightarrow{P_{\varepsilon}} & Y(\varepsilon) \\ \downarrow f_X^{\delta} & \curvearrowright & \downarrow f_Y^{\delta} \\ X(\varepsilon') & \xrightarrow{P_{\varepsilon'}} & Y(\varepsilon') \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{commutes} \\ \forall \delta: \varepsilon' \rightarrow \varepsilon \end{array}$$

Def.

The category of smooth sets is (gen. smooth spaces).

$$\text{SmSet} := \text{Sh}(\text{Man}),$$

sheaves over the site of Man w/ open coverage.

Example: Smooth manifolds as Smooth Sets

- There is a functor

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{Y}: \text{Man} & \longrightarrow & \text{SmoothSet} \\
 M & \longmapsto & \mathcal{Y}(M) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Man}}(-, M)
 \end{array}$$

- **Consistency:** Let $\mathcal{X} \in \text{SmoothSet}$ and $M \in \text{Man}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{\text{SmoothSet}}(\mathcal{Y}(M), \mathcal{X}) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \mathcal{X}(M) = \text{Plot}(M, \mathcal{X}) \\
 \text{Pr} \downarrow & \text{Yoneda lemma} & \downarrow \\
 & & \mathcal{Y}_M(\text{id}_M)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{Y}(M) = \text{Plot}(M, M) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Plot}(M, \mathcal{X}) \\
 \text{id}_M \downarrow & & \downarrow \exists_M(\text{id}_M)
 \end{array}$$

- In particular, for $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}(N)$

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{SmoothSet}}(\mathcal{Y}(M), \mathcal{Y}(N)) \cong \mathcal{Y}(N)(M) := \text{Hom}_{\text{Man}}(M, N)$$

i.e. $\mathcal{Y}: \text{Man} \xrightarrow{\text{s.f.}} \text{SmoothSet}$

Simplifying the site

- Any $\Sigma \in \text{Man}$ admits an Cartesian open cover

$$\text{w/ charts } \{ \phi_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \Sigma \}.$$

- $j: \text{Cart Sp} \hookrightarrow \text{Man}_{\text{fd.}}$ is a full subcat.

- Sheaf condition (iii) implies equivalence

$$\begin{array}{ccc} j^*: \text{Sh}(\text{Man}) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Sh}(\text{Cart}) \\ \downarrow & \longmapsto & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{X} & & j^* \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}|_{\text{Cart}} \end{array}$$

- Thus define instead $\{\text{Schreiber 13}\}$

$$\text{Smooth Sets} := \text{Sh}(\text{Cart})$$

w/ open coverage.

Smooth sets of fields

- Consider the case $F = M \times N \rightarrow M$, so

$$\Gamma_M(M \times N) \cong C^\infty(M, N) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Man}}(M, N)$$

- Want smooth set $F: \text{CartSp} \rightarrow \text{Set}$.

\exists obvious assignment

$$\mathbb{R}^k \longmapsto C^\infty(M \times \mathbb{R}^k, N) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Man}}(M \times \mathbb{R}^k, N)$$

indeed a sheaf.

- In particular

$$F(\mathbb{R}^1) = C^\infty(M \times \mathbb{R}^1, N) \xrightarrow{\cong_{\text{Set}}} \text{Hom}_{\text{Set}}(\mathbb{R}^1, C^\infty(M, N))$$

$$\phi(x, t) \longmapsto \hat{\phi}(t) \in C^\infty(M, N) = \phi(-, t)$$

naturally a 'smooth curve in \mathbb{R}^1 '.

- For arbitrary $F \rightarrow M$, $\Gamma_M(P)$ is smooth set

$$\text{via } F(\mathbb{R}^k) := \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & & F \\ & \nearrow & \downarrow \pi \\ \mathbb{R}^k \times M & \xrightarrow{p_2} & M \end{array} \right\}$$

Fact

- For any $X, Y \in \text{SmSet} \exists \{X \times Y\} \in \text{SmSet}$.

- Lagrangian $h: \Gamma_M(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \Omega^d(M) = \Gamma_M(\wedge^d T^*M)$

is smooth if it defines

$$h: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^d(M) \cong \mathcal{C}^d(M) \otimes \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$$

- Integration over M is smooth.

$$\int_M: \Omega_{\text{loc}}^d(M) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Y}(\mathbb{R})$$

$$\omega_{\mathbb{R}^k} \longmapsto \left(\int_M \omega_{\mathbb{R}^k} \right) (x) := \int_M \omega_{\mathbb{R}^k}(x)$$

- Thus $S = \int_M \circ h$ is smooth, if h is.

- Are "local" functionals smooth?

$$h[\phi] = \bar{L}(\phi, \partial\phi, \dots) \cdot dx^1 \dots dx^d$$

Facts

Lynlike Jet Bundle

Prop [Takens 79']

- $J_M^{\infty} F = \lim J^k F$ is a smooth "Fréchet manifold"
 - lw coords $\{x^M, u^q, u^q_M, u^q_{M_2}, \dots\}$
 - $\begin{matrix} \vdots \\ M \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \vdots \\ M \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \vdots \\ M \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \vdots \\ M \end{matrix}$

[Takens 79', Schreiber-Khaevichev 17']

Prop

- Smooth Fréchet maps $J^{\infty} F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are (locally) pullbacks of $J^k F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

• Lemma [GSS 23']

$\Rightarrow J^{\infty} F \rightarrow N$ for $N \in \text{Man} \hookrightarrow \text{FrMan}$

\Rightarrow of $J^k F \rightarrow N$.

- E.g. a bundle map $L: J^{\infty} F \rightarrow N^{T^*M}$ is (locally)
 - \searrow
 $M \cup$

$$L = [x^M, u^q, u^q_M, \dots, u^q_{M_1 \dots M_k}] \cdot dx^1 \dots dx^M$$

\uparrow by mult smooth

- The (set) jet prolongation $j^{\infty}: \Gamma_M(F) \rightarrow \Gamma_M(J^{\infty} F)$ gives

$$\text{locally } h(\phi) = L \circ j^{\infty}(\phi) = [x^M, \phi^q, \phi^q_M, \dots] \cdot dx^1 \dots dx^M$$

— Is it smooth?

Jet bundle as smooth set

[Thm Chasik 92'3]

- The functor $\gamma: \text{FrMan} \longleftrightarrow \text{SmSet}$
 $G \longmapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{FrMan}}(-, G) \Big|_{\text{ContSp}}$

is fully faithful.

- Since $\gamma(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F) \longrightarrow \gamma(M)$ bundle in SmSet .

$$\Gamma_M(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F)(\mathbb{R}^k) := \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\varphi}^k} & \gamma(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F) \\ & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{X}(\mathbb{R}^k) / \mathbb{X}(M) & \longrightarrow & \gamma(M) \end{array} \right\}_{\text{SmSet}}$$

$\{ \mathbb{R}^k \times M \xrightarrow{\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F} M \}_{\text{FrMan}}$

[Ex 25']

- It follows that j^{∞} defines smooth

map $j^{\infty}: F \longrightarrow \Gamma_M(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F)$

- Also bundle map $L: \gamma(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F) \longrightarrow \gamma(\mathbb{R}^k \times M)$

defines smooth $\Gamma_M(\mathcal{T}^{\infty}F) \longrightarrow \Omega_{\text{lat}}^0(M)$
 $\tilde{\varphi}^k \longmapsto L \circ \tilde{\varphi}^k$

Local Lagrangian action is smooth

- Composing the maps of smooth sets

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} h: \mathbb{F} & \xrightarrow{j_0} & \Gamma_M(j_0^* \mathbb{F}) & \xrightarrow{L} & \Omega_{\text{lat}}^d(M) \\ \phi_k & \longmapsto & \tilde{\phi}_k = j_0^* \phi_k & \longmapsto & L \circ j_0^* \phi_k \end{array}$$

is smooth.

- Similarly, $S = \sum_m \circ h: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}(\mathbb{R})$ is smooth.

- In particular, if $\phi_t \in \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}^1)$ then

$$S(\phi_t) \in \mathcal{Y}(\mathbb{R})(\mathbb{R}) \cong C^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$$

\rightsquigarrow derivative makes sense.

Prep [6SS 23']

• For any local action $S: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

(i) $\phi \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ is crit. iff $\varepsilon h(\phi) = 0$

(ii) $\phi^t \in \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}^k)$ is crit., i.e.

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} S(\phi_t^k) \right|_{t=0} = 0 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^k, \mathbb{R})$$

$$\forall \phi_t^k \in \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}_t^1) \quad \text{w} \quad \phi_{t=0}^k = \phi^k.$$

iff.

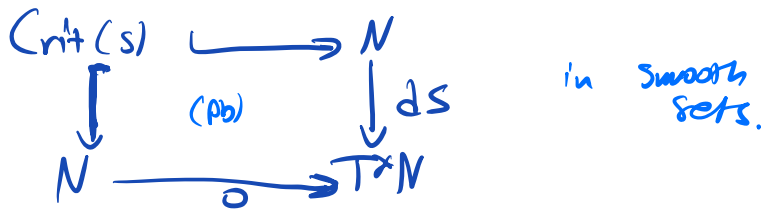
$$\varepsilon h(\phi^k) = 0$$

(iii) Critical plots form a smooth set,

$$\mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon h=0} \cong \text{Crit}(S) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Crit}(S) & \hookrightarrow & \mathcal{F} \\
 \downarrow & \text{(pb)} & \downarrow \varepsilon h \\
 \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & T_{\text{hor}}^* \mathcal{F} = \Gamma_M(N^* T^* M \otimes V^* F)
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{in Subset}$$

- If $M = *$, $F = N \times *$ reduces to



List of extra fruits

- p -form (local) currents P on F are smooth.
- Charges $\int_{\Sigma} \circ P: F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are smooth.
- On-shell cons. currents / charges are smooth on $F_{\text{Ehzo}} \hookrightarrow F$.
- Natural notions of diffeomorphisms, smooth v. fields, tang. vectors on $F = \Gamma_M(F)$.

\implies local diffs, local v. fields.

- Noether's 1st and 2nd Theorems are about local (\implies smooth) symmetries and currents

Outlook on series

II: Perturbation Theory / Infinitesimal neighborhoods:

How to derive these precisely?

(Model for SDE)

→ Euler scheme for

'infinitesimally thickened points'

- Natural def. of top. vector bundles
- Jet bundles w/o Fréchet theory
- Classifying spaces of diff forms
- Def. of Cauchy surface
- Inf. neighborhood exists in field

$$\text{space } D_\phi \longrightarrow F$$

around a field $\phi \in F(x)$.

→ Perturbation theory is restriction

$$D_\phi \longrightarrow F \xrightarrow{h} \mathcal{R}_{\text{lat}}^d(\mathcal{U})$$

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-
-
-

I-II: Fermions eg. $S = \int_{\mathbb{R}^1} \psi \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \psi \cdot dt$

What is the symbol ψ ?

X? $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}, V) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Mod}}(\mathbb{R}, V)$ for $V \in \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{R}}$

X? $\text{Hom}_{\text{SMod}}(\mathbb{R}, \Pi V)$

A: Arbitrary \mathbb{R}^{pt} -plot of smooth
super mapping space $[\mathbb{R}, \Pi V] \in \text{Sh}(\text{SCart})$

$X: \text{ThSCart} \rightarrow \text{Set}$

- Jet bundles of odd bundles

- local fermionic/bosonic Lagrangian, Variations,
 on smooth super space of fields

III: (Higher) • Gauge fields: (connections on (input-bundles))

Non-perturbative smooth space of fields

\rightsquigarrow smooth ∞ -groupoids

$X: \text{ThSCart} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ↑ 'Good' quotients



Gauge symmetry obstructs existence locally symplectic

→ \nexists symplectic phase space

→ \nexists geometric quantization

→ Need "weakly/homotopically" equiv.

theory w/o gauge sym.
i.e. w symplectic phase space

→ Higher/Derived smooth/super geometry

$$\mathcal{X}: \mathcal{L}SConf^{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}Set$$

(Or similar/equivalent formulations)

'Good' quotients/intuitions

↔ (Non Part.) BV/BFV formalism,

'Gauge fixing', (geom.) Quantization