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Generalizations of Frobenius' theorem on manifolds and subcartesian spaces. (English)

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A Hausdorff differential space S in the sense of Sikorski is called a subcartesian space if it is covered by open sets which are diffeomorphic to subsets of \mathbb{R}^n . A generalized distribution on a manifold M is a subset D of TM such that $D_p = D \cap T_pM$ is a subspace of T_pM for each $p \in M$. The dimension of D_p is called the rank of D at p . A generalized distribution is smooth if it is locally spanned by smooth vector fields. An integral manifold of a distribution D on M is an immersed submanifold N of M such that $T\iota_{NM}(T_qN) = D_{\iota(q)}$ for every $q \in N$, where $\iota_{NM} : N \hookrightarrow M$ is the inclusion map. A distribution D on M is said to be integrable if there exists an integral manifold of D containing p for every $p \in M$. If D is integrable, then every integral manifold of D can be extended to a maximal integral manifold of D . Let \mathcal{D} be the family of all vector fields on M with values in D . The distribution D is said to be involutive if the family \mathcal{D} is closed under the Lie bracket of vector fields. An integrable distribution is involutive.

The Theorem of Frobenius states that a constant rank distribution D on a manifold M is integrable if it is involutive, while the Theorem of Sussmann states that a distribution D on a manifold M is integrable if and only if it is preserved by local one-parameter groups of local diffeomorphisms of M generated by vector fields on M with values in D . I. Kolář, P. W. Michor, and J. Slovák proved that a distribution D on a manifold M is integrable if it is involutive and its rank is constant on integral curves of vector fields on M with values in D . Frobenius' and Sussmann's theorems are special cases of this result. A distribution D spanned by a family \mathcal{F} of vector fields on M is said to be involutive on an orbit O of \mathcal{F} if the Lie bracket $[X, Y](p) \in D_p$ for every $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$ and every $p \in O$.

In this paper, the author shows that if \mathcal{F} is a family of vector fields on a manifold or a subcartesian space M spanning a distribution D , then an orbit O of \mathcal{F} is an integral manifold of D if D is involutive on O and it has constant rank on O . This result implies the Theorem of Kolář, Michor, and Slovák, and hence it implies Frobenius' and Sussmann's Theorems.

Reviewer: [Andrew Bucki \(Edmond\)](#)

MSC:

58A30 Vector distributions (subbundles of the tangent bundles)

58A40 Differential spaces

Keywords:

differential spaces; generalized distributions; orbits; Frobenius' Theorem; Sussmann's Theorem

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